



Jordan Times

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Palestinian police beat reporters

NABLUS (AP) — Palestinian police beat reporters trying to cover Israelis moving two caravans into al-Jawish seminary in this autonomous Palestinian town on Tuesday. They broke a photographer's camera. The caravans replaced trailers destroyed when the seminary at Joseph's Tomb was overrun by Palestinians during September's clashes. Six Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian were killed there. Several Palestinian reporters and photographers who arrived at a city roadblock to cover the story were told to go home and assaulted when they refused. AP photographer Nasser Issa's camera was smashed. Abdul Fatah Fayad, a lawyer who lives near Joseph's Tomb, said the two caravans were moved into the enclave in the afternoon. Nablus security official Sameh Kanaan said Israel and the Palestinians had agreed on bringing in the caravans. He said the future of the enclave would be negotiated at a later stage. The Palestinians oppose the Israeli military presence at the tomb.

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Kabariti returns home from Spain

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti returned home on Tuesday after a three-day visit to Spain, where he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to King Juan Carlos and held talks with Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and other government leaders on the Middle East peace process and relations between Jordan and Spain and the Kingdom and the European Union.

Decrees approve appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Decrees have been issued endorsing Cabinet decisions appointing Hamad Afnan Kasasbeh of the Central Bank of Jordan as director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank and Mustafa Jaddouh Al Asaf as advisor to the Prime Ministry, and approving his secondment to the Ministry of Justice to serve as director general of the Jordan Judicial Institute. Another decree endorsed a Cabinet decision appointing Jordan's Ambassador to Austria Hussam Abu Ghazaleh as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Slovenia, and Mohammad Atef Hweidi as an honorary consul to Ukraine.

Arafat to visit Qatar and UAE

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will visit Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday to seek support for the Palestinian stance in negotiations with Israel, a senior official said Tuesday. Mr. Arafat will visit the UAE to meet its president, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, then head for Qatar for talks with its leader, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani. Nabil Abu Rdaina told AFP, Mr. Abu Rdaina said the trip was rescheduled from Wednesday to Saturday "for technical reasons."

Jordanian held in Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian was arrested by the Israeli authorities at the beginning of the month on suspicion of spying and belonging to a "hostile organisation," Israeli judicial sources were quoted as saying by the French news agency, Agence France Presse, on Monday. The man, identified as Nabil Hudbi by the agency in a dispatch from Tel Aviv, arrived in Israel at the start of the year to marry a woman from Jaffa where there is a large Israeli-Arab community, the sources said. Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet found that Hudbi had made secret contacts with "hostile elements" and had passed information to them, the sources were quoted as saying. Tel Aviv district court sanctioned his arrest on Nov. 1 and ordered him to be detained for 15 days under a news blackout. During a court appearance in which the authorities asked for an extension of his detention, Hudbi denied all the Shin Bet charges, the sources said. The court decided to lift the media ban on the case on Monday. No Jordanian official comment was immediately available on the report.

Iranian minister to visit UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iran's interior minister will visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) next week for its national day celebrations, despite UAE charges of Iranian hostility, the official news agency WAM said Tuesday. It said Ali Mohammad Besharati would lead an Iranian delegation in the region.

Iraq is ready to apply oil deal immediately

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday it was ready to apply an oil-for-food deal immediately after breaking a six-month deadlock by lifting lingering objections to the plan and agreeing to U.N. terms.

"Iraq is ready to apply the accord immediately in cooperation with the United Nations," the official Al Iraq newspaper headlined.

Babel newspaper, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, said that Iraq finally broke the deadlock by applying U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war and persuading the world community to soften its stand.

"The expected easing (of the embargo) is not the result of a softening of the U.S. attitude," Babel said. "If they could have, the United States would have maintained the embargo indefinitely."

Instead, the agreement on implementing the terms of the deal was the result "of a change in attitude of the other countries and Iraq's application of U.N. resolutions," it said.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid welcomed as a "positive step" the breakthrough in the oil-for-food talks between Iraq and the United Nations.

"Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid welcomes the announcement by the U.N. and Iraq to implement the oil-for-food deal and hopes this positive step will lift the hardships of the brotherly Iraqi people," an Arab League statement said.

Turkish officials said a twin oil pipeline from Iraq to Turkey is technically ready to handle the oil that Baghdad will be allowed to sell under a U.N. deal.

"We had already made it ready months ago when talk of its reopening was on the agenda in the summer," said a senior oil official, who declined to be named. He said the Turkish firm Tekfen, which built the pipeline, had repaired damage from the 1991 Gulf war.

"Apart from work by U.N. monitors to make sure the pipeline and its control units function properly, there is nothing to be done. Turkey has completed its job," the official told Reuters.

Baghdad-based diplomats and Iraqi experts said the pipeline would be ready in the first week of December. They reported a Turkish team was in Baghdad and would visit Iraq's northern oil centre of Kirkuk on Tuesday for a final inspection of the pipeline and

pumping stations.

U.N. officials said they would have to send experts back to northern Iraq to ensure oil metering equipment on the Iraq-Turkish border, which had not been working, was now functioning.

Most Iraqi oil exports are to flow through the 986-kilometre pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey's southern Ceyhan port, with the rest exported via the Gulf port of Mina Al Bakr.

Experts in Baghdad said Iraqi facilities could easily handle the amounts to be sold. Prior to U.N. sanctions Iraq exported more than 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd), up to 1.5 million bpd through Turkey.

Oil exports could be 700,000 to 800,000 bpd at current prices, most through Turkey and some 300,000 bpd Iraq hopes to ship from the Gulf.

A diplomat in Baghdad said Iraq would initially rely on exports through Turkey: "I believe the Turkish pipeline will be able to handle as much crude as the U.N. would like to go in that direction."

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, said the pipeline via Turkey "will definitely be ready by the first week of December." Turkey's state-controlled

Anatolian news agency, quoting unnamed U.N. officials, said oil could be flowing by Dec. 5.

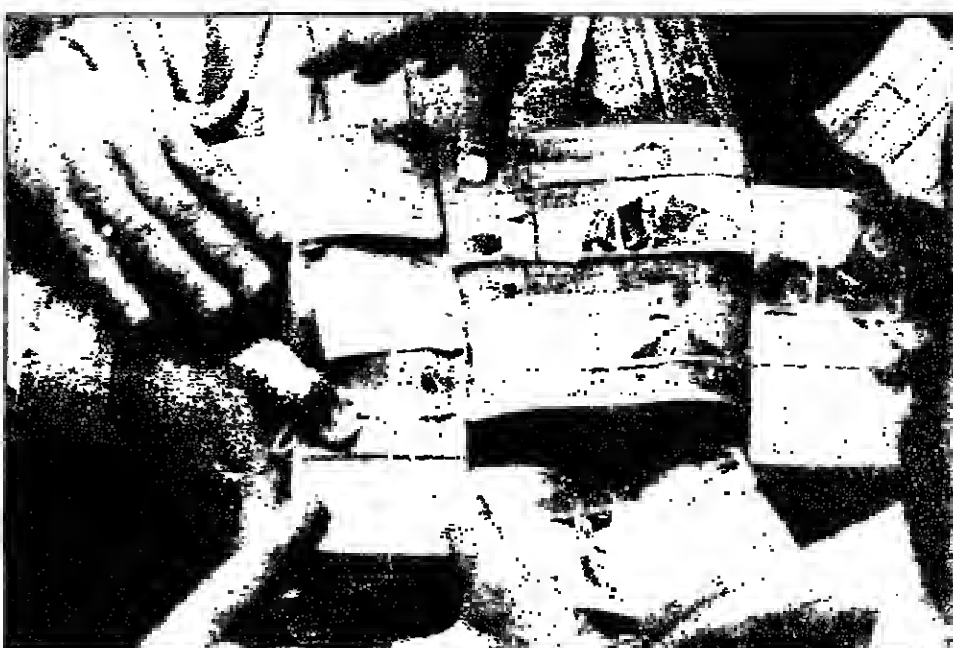
The Dutch firm Saybol will inspect the pipeline to ensure faulty equipment at Iraq's Zakho station near the Turkish border is now operational. Lloyds of London this week will inspect facilities for imports.

Despite the limited oil sale, the United Nations will keep the ban on general Iraqi oil exports until it is satisfied Iraq has no remaining weapons of mass destruction or the ability to make them.

U.S. Ambassador to U.N. Madeleine Albright said the United States expected to approve a new oil pricing formula, which dictates the terms of oil sales so that most contracts can be approved by the experts or overseers without going to the full committee.

Washington had twice refused to endorse the formula, a key demand by Iraq, once in August and then again in September.

The move led Western diplomats to speculate that the delay was to make sure no action during the U.S. presidential campaign was taken that could be construed as helping President Saddam.



Jordanian moneychangers holding millions of depreciated Iraqi dinars are overjoyed after hearing the news that the Iraqi dinar had surged on Tuesday on news of Iraq reaching agreement with the U.N. on the oil-for-food deal (Reuters photo)

Three dead in flashfloods in south; relief and restoration under way

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people, including a Dutch tourist and a Jordanian tour guide, were killed in flash floods that hit the south on Monday, officials said Tuesday.

Wadi Musa District Governor Imam Sharieh said the body of Tom Vandop, 62, and his tour guide Fayez Aqrubawi, 45, drowned when their vehicle overturned and fell into a stream near Ma'an.

The body of Hassan Hilalat, 17, who was reported missing Monday evening, was subsequently found by a search team inside the ancient city of Petra Tuesday morning, Mr. Sharieh said.

The flash floods following torrential rains hit the areas of Petra, Wadi Musa and Ma'an.

Mr. Sharieh said seven vehicles parked at the entrance of the town of Wadi Musa as well as construction equipment and material were swept away.

The floods blocked roads with loads of rocks and earth and partially closed the main road between Eel and Ma'an as well as the Eel-Taybeh-Athroh road and disrupted electric supply to Wadi Musa when three electric poles collapsed.

Another car on the Ma'an-Eel road was washed away by floods and

its three passengers were rescued. The three had sustained minor injuries requiring treatment at the Ma'an government hospital.

The Public Security Department reported that one of its helicopters airlifted a family of three in the Jafer semi-arid area, south-east of Amman.

Acting upon instructions from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the ministers of public works and housing and interior affairs, Abdul Hadi Majali and Awad Khleifat, Tuesday inspected the areas hit by floods.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that they supervised operations to reopen roads and restore electric power to the Wadi Musa area, the worst hit by the floods.

Mr. Majali said that his ministry now plans to send a team of engineers to the affected areas in order to estimate the extent of damage and will subsequently prepare a detailed report on the situation.

He said that the report will be taken into consideration by national and international firms and organisations currently involved in the conducting of studies and restoration work of the ancient sites.

Dr. Khleifat said the damages will be repaired

and local citizens compensated for losses they sustained as a result of the floods.

Mr. Sharieh told the ministers that the torrential rains were unprecedented in the area.

Half an hour of heavy rainfall caused the floods and landslides, causing earth and rocks to block the roads and culverts as well as the uprooting of some olive trees.

About 500 tourists who were in the Petra area when the downpour came, were relocated to hotels in Taybet Zaman, the governor said.

Mr. Majali said that once the engineering teams and other officials have completed their report, he would submit it to the Council of Ministers to take appropriate measures.

Mr. Majali and Dr. Khleifat later called at Taybet Zaman and Petra, where they said life was returning to normal.

They reported that 65 tourists visited Petra on a horseback tour on Tuesday.

Minister of Tourism Saleh Irshaid said in a statement carried by the Petra that a special committee had inspected archaeological sites in Petra.

He also offered condolences to the wife of the Dutch tourist killed by the floods.

Netanyahu defies world criticism, says growth of settlements will continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The tug-of-war between Israelis and Palestinians over Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took a new turn Tuesday with the Israeli prime minister defiantly pledging the growth of the settlements.

Mr. Netanyahu also accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of preparing the ground for another round of deadly clashes with Israel.

Mr. Arafat would be well-advised "to think again" before going ahead with such a scheme, he told journalists during a visit to the Jewish settlement of Ariel on the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu warned the Palestinians "not to be under the illusion that Israel will allow a repetition of the events of late September."

Seventy Palestinians, 15 Israeli soldiers and an Egyptian police officer on the border with Gaza were killed in the clashes, which were largely fuelled by frustration over the deadlock in the peace process.

"We will not agree to negotiations under a threat from the other side of resorting to violence," said Mr. Netanyahu.

Israeli officials have warned against renewed clashes since a tense confrontation on Sunday between the army and Palestinian demonstrators who sealed off the Gaza settlement of Netzarim.

They have accused the Palestinian leadership of orchestrating the protest. Mr. Netanyahu's visit to Ariel came in open defiance of Palestinian and international condemnation of his settlement policies.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks to the press during a visit to the Jewish settlement of Ariel in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday (AFP photo)

"Ariel must expand, it needs more schools and more swimming pools," Mr. Netanyahu declared during a visit to the settlement of 10,000 people in the heart of the occupied West Bank.

On the long-delayed Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, Mr. Netanyahu brushed aside a proposal from an Israeli author of the autonomy accords drawn up in Oslo three years ago.

The Oslo accords automatically give Israeli troops the right of "hot pursuit" in Hebron, argued Yoel Singer, who was the foreign ministry legal advisor during the drafting of the agreements.

But Mr. Netanyahu said "the problem is not that simple" because the West Bank town "has been defined as a 'special case' and so all the general stipulations in the autonomy accords do not automatically apply to Hebron."

Mr. Netanyahu's demand for written acknowledgment

of the Israeli army's freedom of operation throughout the city even after it is transferred to Palestinian control.

Mr. Netanyahu chose Ariel, one of the most entrenched Jewish communities in the West Bank, for his high-profile tour, a day after the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) called for an immediate halt to all settlement activity.

Cheered by hundreds of schoolchildren in Ariel, the right-wing leader gave no ground to worldwide opposition to expanding settlements.

"Do you really expect that a government was elected that said it intended to maintain the communities in Judea and Samaria and that the prime minister would not visit those communities?" Mr. Netanyahu told reporters at the settlement, using Israeli-given names for the occupied West Bank.

"What, you don't understand that there were elections?" he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Sharon wants to 'resettle' 50,000 bedouins in Naqab

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel wants to move 50,000 bedouins from their tent encampments in the southern desert and resettle them in five or six new towns, a spokesman for Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday.

The resettlement could take 10 to 15 years, said Sharon spokesman Razan Gissin, adding that many bedouins had settled illegally on state land. No one would be forced to move, he said.

Mr. Sharon has said he wanted to move more Jews to the Naqab desert and the northern Galilee region, two remote areas with large Arab populations. More than 200,000 bedouins live in the Naqab and the Galilee.

Resettlement plans will be worked out by a group of cabinet ministers who chose Mr. Sharon as chairman Tuesday. Members include Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and Interior Minister Eli Suissa.

Legislator Taleb Sanna, a bedouin, said that while he would welcome the construction of new homes for his constituents, he was wary of Mr. Sharon's plans.

He said the bedouin must be consulted. If their needs were not being considered, "it will create violence," he said.

Mr. Sanna said he spoke with Mr. Sharon on Monday and was told the minister mainly wanted to resettle bedouins who live in areas between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Tug-of-war seen in the making over key draft laws on economy

By Ghalia Ahul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is hoping that several draft laws which it sees as essential for economic growth and encouraging investment will be endorsed by Parliament in its fourth and last ordinary session which opened Nov. 19.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said the new package will take the country a long way in its efforts to liberalise the economy and build a suitable investment environment.

Dr. Muasher told journalists Tuesday he hoped the draft legislation could be approved by Parliament without going into detailed discussions because there was a general agreement on the broadlines of the laws which are technical in nature.

He said detailed discussions of the laws could be done in a later stage, especially that many of the current laws that the new ones will replace are temporary.

But the opposition, which lost its first battle in the current session when none of its candidates to the permanent office of the Lower House of Parliament won, appears determined not to have any of the draft laws passed before they are thoroughly deliberated in the House.

The government, however, has a majority support in the House and chances are slim that the opposition will be able to stop or delay the passage of the laws.

Islamic Action Front deputy Mohammed Oweida, who is also a member of the House's Finance Committee which reviews economic draft legislation before they are discussed on the floor, told the Jordan Times "Parliament would not endorse any laws before reading and discussing all the articles in them."

"If we allow this (passing the draft laws without thorough discussion of all the articles), we will set a precedent," which future governments would use to pass laws without Parliament's approval, said Dr.

Oweida. He added that "had the government been serious about these laws it would not have dissolved the extraordinary session in August."

The extraordinary session was dissolved in August by a Royal Decree in the wake of disturbances in the south resulting from changes in the form of subsidies on bread and animal feed.

Dr. Oweida added that an extraordinary session should be held after the current session ends if the government wants the draft laws to be endorsed before the end of the term of the 12th Parliament.

Dr. Oweida said that Parliament had not yet received the laws, adding that the process of discussing them would take a long time.

The proposed draft laws include the companies law, securities law, customs law, protection of national products law, management and investment of state property law, the competition and

(Continued on page 7)

ESCWA meeting releases water recommendations, legislation

By Sacha Bagli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Upgrading current water legislation and strengthening methods of law enforcement are some of the only ways of dealing with limited regional water resources as well as the future implications of same.

This was the conclusion of a three-day expert group meeting, organised by the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), which ended here Tuesday.

The meeting, which aimed to redress the problem of regional water scarcity and the need for measures to protect water resources through national legislation and regional integration of water management, found that methods of water legal enforcement must be strengthened for progress to be made in this area and participants therefore duly adopted 18 recommendations for the consideration of regional governments and international and regional organisations.

The experts, representing the 12 member states of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations, the ESCWA Secretariat and other expert organisations,

studied official documents, reviewed the efforts of individual states to implement effective legislation and acknowledged that despite ongoing international legislative efforts, current legal frameworks lack the strength and clarity needed to ensure effective and equitable management of water.

The meeting, showed that most ESCWA member states are in a continuous process of reviewing and updating water legislation as well as centralising their water management activities but that the ineffective enforcement of regulations in many countries renders these efforts futile.

Identified as the main obstacles to effective enforcement, were the common characteristics of fragmented institutional frameworks in ESCWA countries, the need to establish a distinct separation of water resource production and allocation and in some countries the need to consider the socio-economic impact of water legislation.

In view of these observations, the expert group meeting made 18 concise recommendations, (nine for the consideration of member states and nine for the consideration of ESCWA as well as regional

and international organisations).

It was recommended to the member states that they continue reviewing and updating water and water-related legislation, formulate and adopt general principles for the establishment of appropriate implementation mechanisms, formulate clear and comprehensive policies for water sector management as a basis for the development of new water laws and promote the establishment of legislative administrative jurisdictions and co-ordination among national water institutions.

It was also recommended that all customary water rights be recognised and incorporated into water use permit systems and that regulations to encourage private sector participation should be enacted as well as National Water Councils, courts, and tribunals to be set up for the purpose of settling allocation priorities and settling water rights disputes.

Representatives of member states are to advise their governments to raise public awareness to the fact that water is subsidised and payment for delivered water also partially covers costs of treatment and distribution

services.

Governments were also advised to prepare a water code containing basic principles, from which more detailed regulations will derive.

A request was made at the end of the meeting for ESCWA to prepare a document based on participant submissions to serve as a guideline for water legislation and management in the ESCWA region.

Recommendations to be considered by expert organisations included working to promote a better understanding of customary, national and international water laws, offering member states training courses to strengthen the institutional capacity of water management at all levels, standardising terms used in the industry, clarifying their purpose and establishing jurisdiction to aid the development of integrated management and promoting information exchanges among ESCWA states.

It was also recommended that the organisations work towards encouraging states to establish joint water commissions and reach formal agreements on the use of their shared surface and ground water resources.

Japan grants \$11.3 m in aid to Jordan for restoration of water supply network

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan Tuesday signed an agreement stipulating Tokyo's provision of more than \$11 million to aid in rehabilitation efforts of the water supply network in the Greater Amman area.

The grant raised outright Japanese aid to Jordan to nearly \$22 million in this Japanese fiscal year which began in April 1996. The Japanese embassy has stated that more grants were expected before the fiscal year ends in March 1997, but did not give details.

Tuesday's grant agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura.

Commenting on the water supply project, the Japanese embassy stated "As a result of the peace treaty signed in Oct. 1994 between Jordan and Israel, additional surface water was brought from the Yarmouk River to the King Abdullah Canal. However the newly available water has not been fully utilised" because of problems in the supply system.

The 1.275 million Japanese yen (about \$11.3 million) loan will be used to ensure the supply of an annual 45 million cubic metres of water by replacing water pumps in the four pumping stations between Deir Alla and a water treatment plant at Zai near Salt.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura Tuesday sign an agreement to aid the water supply network in the greater Amman area (Petra photo)

Parts of the Greater Amman area receive their drinking water from Zai.

The Japanese embassy stated that the latest grant comes directly after another Japanese contribution of nearly \$7.5 million to help rebuild the Sheikh Hussein Bridge — the northern crossing between Jordan and Israel.

That accord was signed in August during Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda's visit.

The Japanese and Jordanian governments are discussing grant aid for several other projects as well as soft loans for the tourism and education sectors.

Jordan has sought about a soft loan of \$76 million from Japan for the King-

dom's tourism sector and another \$60 million for the education sector. Tokyo is considering the requests and final decisions are expected next year.

During his August visit, Mr. Ikeda promised to favourably consider the requests. The loan for the tourism sector, when approved, will be spent on infrastructure as well as instituting new tourism sites and upgrading those already existing.

Projects in the plan include a national museum, "tourist alleys" in downtown Amman and Karak, parking and recreation areas, information centres and the upgrading of facilities available at tourist sites. The Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Tokyo government's arm to implement projects financed under grant aid, has conducted a study on segments of the Kingdom's master plan.

Tokyo has dispatched at least two missions to discuss the loan request with Jordanian officials. Jordan has also requested a \$60 million loan from Japan for its human resource development projects. The funds will be spent on building new schools. That request is also under consideration by the Tokyo government.

Verdicts handed down in explosives trial

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people convicted of plotting to execute acts of sabotage were Tuesday sentenced from 10 years imprisonment with hard labour to life imprisonment terms.

The State Security Court found Salem Bakhit Jaradat, 22, guilty of plotting to execute extremist attacks, manufacturing and possession of illegal arms and hand-made explosives and first handed down a death verdict which was later commuted to life imprisonment.

"As the defendant is young, with no previous criminal record and as he was not responsible for any deaths the court decided to commute his death sentence," Presiding Judge Yousef Faouri said.

The Military Court found the second defendant Ahmad Qassem Saoub, 22, accused of the same charges, guilty of only one of the charges — plotting to carry out extremist attacks — and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment.

Mr. Saoub was first sentenced by the military tribunal, comprised of Judges Faouri, Salem Saoudi and Aref Syouf, to a term of 15 years but his sentence was also reduced "as he is young and deserves a second chance."

Mr. Saoub insisted that he was innocent, and began to loudly recite poetic verse: "This is unjust, and we will see this injustice everywhere."

The two men were acquitted by the Amman Criminal Court in October, in a separate trial, of the attempted murder of former French Embassy Second Secretary Gilles Heine in February of 1995.

Defence Attorneys Saleh Armouti and Hikmat Rawasbdeb told the Jordan Times, following the verdicts, that the sentences were "quite harsh" and that they were planning to appeal the verdicts. "We did not expect such verdicts. We were hoping that the court might consider our defence arguments which would have played a factor in clearing our clients of the charges," they said.

According to court transcripts, the two suspects, a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, met in 1994.

Mr. Jaradat made explosives by hand and "convicted Mr. Saoub to attack tourists in the Wadi Mujib area," the transcripts said.

On Feb. 24, 1995, the court said, Mr. Jaradat, porting a bag filled with explosives, and Mr. Saoub, in possession of an unlicensed gun, went to Wadi Mujib area and were originally intending to carjack a tourist bus but were dissuaded by the presence of security guards around the vehicles.

The two then left the area, the transcripts said, and went to the Wadi Mujib rest house where they approached Mr. Heine and his wife, Florence, who had stopped their car at a tourist site in the area.

They then attempted to force the French couple into their car at gun point and a struggle ensued between them.

A police patrol observed the quarrel, came to remedy the situation and during the ensuing struggle Mr. Heine was struck by a bullet.

The Criminal Court had ruled that the bullet did not come from Mr. Saoub's gun.

"It is clear to court that the two defendants' intentions were, indeed, to attack tourists and they plotted same for their operation and divided

roles," Judge Faouri said during the one-hour court session.

The judge stated in the 29-page verdict that the court had ruled out the defence argument that the defendants were forced to confess by police or security forces.

"Both defendants' bruises and bleeding... were the result of the struggle between the two, police and the French envoy," Judge Faouri said.

The judge described evidence used to convict the defendants as including the defendants' own testimonies which, the court said, paralleled military prosecution evidence presented in court.

Moreover, Judge Faouri affirmed that the court also relied on officer testimonies of those involved in the incident and others who had seized a bag from the first defendant, containing explosives.

During the 13-month trial, the defendants sought to prove that they were framed by security forces, claiming they were only carrying an unlicensed seven millimetre gun which they had intended for bird hunting in the Wadi Mujib area.

Meanwhile, today the Military Court is expected to announce its ruling in the case of 13 men, known by their affiliated name Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), some of whom are accused of sabotage.

Seven of the 13 face charges of plotting to carry out extremist attacks and illegally possessing and manufacturing explosives with illicit intent.

If convicted some might receive the death penalty. The remaining six, all released on bail, are charged with slandering His Majesty King Hussein, a charge which could result in a maximum prison term of three years.

Syrian authorities detain suspects in Jordanian's death

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A man and a woman were apprehended in Syria last week in connection with the death of a 39-year-old man, who, initial reports indicated, had drowned in Latikia in August, according to security sources.

The family of the deceased, identified only as Khaled, had reported their suspicions that their son might have been murdered by his wife on a trip to Syria.

The prosecutor for the Criminal Court then ordered the body to be exhumed for an autopsy in September. The autopsy reportedly conclusively proved that the man had, indeed, drowned.

"Syrian police contacted Jordanian authorities, informing them that they have detained the victim's wife, along with another man, both suspects in the murder," the source said without elaborating.

The woman had remained in Syria following her husband's death and funeral. Last week, Syrian police located the woman and arrested her, the source added.

Moreover, the source said, Syrian authorities are questioning both suspects to determine whether the man did accidentally drown or if there exists the possibility that he was murdered.

Initial reports indicate that Khaled, who was visiting the beach area with his wife and the second suspect, did not know how to swim.

"The two did request help but it was too late as the man had drowned," the source said.

"Jordanian and Syrian authorities are coordinating their investigations in order to come up with an answer to the case," the source said.

HUDD awards tenders to local firms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Tuesday awarded tenders to two local firms, worth a combined JD 1.33 million, to carry out infrastructure work at two housing sites; one at Abu Nuseir, northwest of Amman and the other at the Zibdet Furkough District in the Irbid suburbs.

During the signing ceremony, HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat said that infrastructure services like water, electricity and sewage networks are to be built in residential homes and local stores and that the total area of land on which the housing estates will be organised is 260 dunams at both sites.

Mr. Hiyasat, who signed the deals with the two firms' managers, said that the HUDD will offer the beneficiaries — low-income groups — the plots of land at cost and will help facilitate the process of securing soft loans from the Housing Bank to build their homes on these plots.

He said that the infrastructure services to be installed there will cost JD 900,000 and will be completed in 450 days according to the terms of contract.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the project near Irbid will also be completed in 450 days and is estimated to cost JD 430,000. But, according to Mr. Hiyasat, those who are not dealing with HUDD will be sold plots of land at current market prices.

What's Going On

LECTURE

• "The Horizons of a Settlement in the Middle East" by Dr. Adnan Hussein at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

PLAY

• "The City of Sawsanah" (Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

• "The Establishment and Evolution of Jordanian Political Parties" and "Alliances and Unification Between Political Parties" with the participation of Mr. Ali Mahafzeh and Mr. Mejem Al Khraishah at the Jordan National Gathering at 6:00 p.m.

EXAMINATIONS

The British Council would like to announce that entries for May/June 1997 Examinations for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) & the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) will be accepted from Sunday 1 December to Thursday 5 December 1996.

We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Registration time: 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are required to bring with them an official identification and a passport photograph.

Please ask for Miss Diana Muasher

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Muslim Brotherhood denies illegal links abroad

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood has categorically denied that his group maintained illegal links with foreign countries and described its relationship with the regime as one of successful cohabitation.

In an article published in Al Ra'i newspaper, Bassam Emoush, head of the information committee at the Islamic Action Front Party, rejected as unfounded and unrealistic contentions that the Brotherhood receives instructions from the mother movement in Egypt or that Britain was behind the emergence of the movement as a whole.

Dr. Emoush conceded that in Jordan the Brotherhood maintains "useful" relations with its counterparts in other countries. But he stressed that the movement has led, successfully, an independent policy both at the financial and administrative levels.

There is coordination among all Brotherhood leaders in the world. They exchange opinions and information. But their

axiom is 'Mecca's inhabitants know the best about their people,' he said.

"How can the Brotherhood in Jordan pursue a balanced and pragmatic policy... receive orders from the movement in Egypt whose members remain behind bars, or follow the footsteps of the movements in Syria, Tunisia and Iraq, whose members live outside their homelands or even accept guidance from Algeria where Brotherhood members are the ones who need advice to rid the country of the blood bath. Let alone give instructions?" Dr. Emoush asked.

According to Dr. Emoush, the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan is relatively one of the most successful and has the status to guide and lead other movements and not vice versa.

Last week, leading writers, analysts and thinkers projected their viewpoints in the daily newspaper Al Ra'i over the history, policies and relations of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan. Some writers claimed that the Brotherhood received financial backing from Iran and some

Gulf countries. Others contended that the movement will resort to violence at a certain point to achieve its long-awaited objectives of establishing an Islamic state.

Writers Jamal Sha'er and Husni Ayesh in particular contended in their articles that the Brotherhood receives financial backing from the Gulf countries and Iran. They said that foreign assistance flows continuously and that the movement's members enjoy a comfortable financial status.

"Gulf countries do not back any political trend. They do not even deal with Islamic streams on a political basis," said Dr. Emoush, who is also the head of the Freedoms Committee at the Lower House of Parliament. "As for (receiving funding from) Iran, it is totally unfounded and untrue. It is a given fact that accusing Iran of funding Islamic movements is part and parcel of an international campaign aimed at linking the country with terrorist activities."

The Muslim Brotherhood was first established in Egypt in 1928 by Hassan Banna. It later spread all

over the Arab and Muslim Worlds, becoming one of the most influential political streams in some Arab and Muslim countries. In Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood movement was established in 1945 and legalised in 1953 as a political society. Known for its pragmatic approach, the Muslim Brotherhood has received the backing of the regime. In 1993, the Brotherhood decided to establish the Islamic Action Front Party to become fully active in the political life.

Dr. Emoush rejected allegations by leading economist Fahed Fanek and writer Husni Ayesh that the relationship between the Brotherhood and the regime was marked by conflict, saying the ties between the two sides have been marked by successful cohabitation. He said the Brotherhood has never thought of resorting to violence and will never adopt such means.

"This cohabitation has been accepted by both parties," Dr. Emoush said. "Tension that escalated at certain points did not cross the red lines. There was no reason for Dr. Fanek to say

that the Muslim Brotherhood could, temporarily, threaten the stability of the country," he said.

"The movement has never thought of that and will never think of it," he added. According to Dr. Emoush, the Brotherhood was ready to shed blood for the stability of the country. It stood against the 1950's coup plotters and it was committed to the Islamic principles during the 1970's September events. When the riots in Ma'an erupted in 1989, the Brotherhood attempted to ease tension as it did during riots against the increase in bread prices in August.

"After all of this, someone like Dr. Fanek, comes up and says that the Brotherhood thinks of using force. I don't know until when the Brotherhood will remain under scrutiny. The Brotherhood never resorted to violence during the past 50 years even when the regime was at its weakest. Using force means possessing (the means to do so). Where are the armed forces of the Brotherhood?" he said.

Rwandan refugees report huge buildup near Sake

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Hundreds of Rwandan refugees arriving in the eastern Zairean town of Goma Tuesday are reporting a large-scale buildup of refugees both to the west and south of the town of Sake, 20 kilometres to the west, an aid worker said.

"We have had around 700 refugees coming from Sake today," said Sudi Balibwazi, a local worker for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"These refugees are reporting a long column of refugees stretching back from Sake into the Masisi and can only estimate the numbers as many thousands.

"These refugees are all from the camps around Goma but we have already had a small number of refugees coming from the direction of Bikavu who say there are many more behind them," Mr. Balibwazi said.

One refugee who had walked through the Masisi region and arrived at Sake Monday said there was fighting in the region between Zairean rebels and soldiers of the former Rwandan army.

"I came from Katala Camp 30 days ago," said Samson Kwinduyira, 16. "The column of refugees stretches back into the Masisi and there is fighting in the Masisi between the rebels and the former Rwandan government army."

The UNHCR estimated there were 1.2 million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire until mid-November.

Aid agencies and the U.S. Military estimate that up to 600,000 Rwandan refugees have returned to Rwanda from Zaire since mid-November after fighting between Zaire rebels and Rwandan Hutu militiamen and soldiers of the former Rwandan army.

The whereabouts of the rest remains a mystery. A U.S. Navy P-3 Orion reconnaissance aircraft, designed to hunt submarines, circled for more than two hours over the area around Goma and Sake Tuesday to try to find the "missing" refugees.

Meanwhile Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Monday Canada hopes to reach international consensus in the next day or so on moving ahead with the long-awaited humanitarian mission for central Africa.

"The hope is that we can arrive at an agreement amongst the various coalition partners within a matter of a day or so," Mr. Axworthy told parliament when asked how many more meetings would be needed before refugees would be helped.

"The meetings that were held last week were very important in terms of determining what the needs were," Mr. Axworthy said.

His spokeswoman, Catherine Lappe, told reporters later they should emphasise the "or so" — meaning it might take more than 24 hours.

"We are ... presently talking to a number of the coalition

partners to determine exactly what the most appropriate response would be based upon the information that was arrived at this weekend," Mr. Axworthy said.

He has called about a dozen foreign ministers from Africa and Europe, including those of France, Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, South Africa, Cameroon, Ireland and the Organisation of African Unity, Ms. Lappe said.

The U.N. Security Council authorised a mission to eastern Zaire on Nov. 15 to assist refugees and displaced Zaireans, but the subsequent return of half a million to Rwanda has caused a lengthy reassessment.

Mr. Axworthy told parliament he shared the frustration of many with the time it was taking to launch the mission, but added: "We can't move by ourselves. We must move in partnership with the other members of the coalition."

The Canadian government appeared to be leaning toward mounting some sort of military force, heavily scaled back, to help the refugees and displaced people still left in Zaire.

In a separate development, Zairean rebel military sources said Tuesday Zairean troops have looted two towns north of Goma before fleeing.

The government troops have "looted Butembo and Bunia and fled the two towns. We haven't got there yet, but the population is calling us," said rebel military chief Kisasi-Andre Ngandu.

Both towns are more than 200 kilometres north of Goma, on the northern shores of Lake Kivu.

The troops "robbed then fled, as they did in Goma and Bukavu (in South Kivu). It is not an army, it is a gang of thieves," Mr. Ngandu said.

The rebel chief said there were reports that government troops had looted Beni, another town located between Butembo and Beni. He said he did not know whether the troops were still in the area.

Mr. Ngandu said the rebels, most of them Zairean Tutsis known as Banyamulenge, intended to set up new local authorities in the region under their control.

The rebels have succeeded in consolidating their hold on the eastern part of the country, where they have set up an autonomous administrative network aimed at reassuring the population.

"The nomination of the new (North Kivu) governor and of the area's commissars could take place tomorrow," the rebel chief said Tuesday.

Rebels were meanwhile evacuating Rwandan refugees early Tuesday from Sake to the Zaire-Rwanda border.

The Sake area has been closed to foreigners for a week.

One rebel said there were still Rwandan Hutu militias and former members of the Rwandan Armed Forces (RAF) in the Sake region, who were attempting to hide among the refugees.

U.S. Air Force blames crew in fatal C-130 crash

WASHINGTON (R) — The air force, Monday blamed crew error in the August crash in Wyoming of a C-130 cargo plane that accompanied President Bill Clinton on vacation and which killed all eight crew members and a Secret Service agent on board.

"The accident investigation board report concludes that crew error caused the crash," the air force said in a statement on the incident, in which the four-engine plane slammed into a mountain near Jackson Hole on Aug. 17.

"The crew failed to monitor the aircraft's position and flight path relative to high terrain surrounding the Jackson Hole Airport," the

statement said.

The C-130 was on a presidential support mission and had taken off from Jackson Hole headed for John F. Kennedy Airport in New York when it hit Sleeping Indian Mountain in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, about 15 kilometres east of Jackson Hole.

Mr. Clinton had left Jackson Hole by helicopter, where he vacationed the previous week, several hours before the crash.

The plane was carrying Secret Service agent Aldo Frasca, presidential vehicles and other equipment.

Gen. Ronald Fogelman, the air force chief of staff, stressed in the statement that the C-130 remained one

of the service's safest planes and that "we have the highest regard for, and confidence in, all our C-130 air crews around the world."

But the 15-page report by Col. Robert Skolasky said that several mistakes were made, including failure of the pilot and crew of the flight, dubbed "Havoc 58," to review quick climb requirements in such a mountainous area.

"They were complacent and not situationally aware of their proximity to that (mountainous) terrain," said Col. Skolasky, the accident investigation officer.

The report noted that although no clouds were reported below 12,000 feet (3,600 metres) when the

crash occurred at about 10:30 p.m. local time, "numerous witnesses state that it was a dark night and the mountaintops were not visible."

"Radar information, which would have been showing on the navigator's radar scope, was not correctly interpreted" during the brief and fatal flight, according to Col. Skolasky.

He said that Capt. Kevin Earnest was at the controls when the plane took off and he flew the aircraft until about 15 seconds before impact.

Capt. Kimberly Jo Wiethouwer had just taken the controls when the plane slammed into the mountain, he added.

U.S. Republican leaders lay out congress agenda

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan (AFP) — Republican congressional leaders Monday renewed pledges to work with Democratic President Bill Clinton to tackle the country's most pressing problems, including welfare and balancing the budget.

Addressing the first gathering of Republican governors since national elections three weeks ago here, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate majority leader Trent Lott also said they would try to negotiate the largest possible tax cuts with the Democrats.

Drawing the lessons of the elections in which a Democratic president was reelected and a Republican majority returned to Congress in two consecutive sessions for the first time, Mr. Gingrich, 53, laid out the Republican agenda for the 105 Congress next year.

"The last Congress was the confrontation Congress, legitimately so in historic terms," the Georgia representative, who was reapp-

ointed last week, told 23 of the country's 32 Republican governors.

"But we're now in a different world. This will be the implementation Congress not because we'll sell our principles but because as a result of this confrontation, Bill Clinton decided to run for reelection essentially on our values."

"Our role is to reach out to him and say: Every time the president wants to keep his campaign promises, he has Republican partners willing to work with him to keep his words to the American people."

On welfare reform, Mr. Gingrich said the process would "take several years to sort out. Let's try to make it work," he added to loud applause.

Senate majority leader Trent Lott of Mississippi meanwhile said a balanced budget amendment would be a top priority for Republicans when the Congress reconvenes in January.

The Republican-controlled

Congress and Mr. Clinton locked horns over the budget last year, forcing two partial shutdowns of federal government agencies and offices.

Noting that the amendment passed the House and failed by one vote in the Senate earlier this year, Sen. Lott said there are good prospects for getting it approved next year.

On campaign finance reform, Sen. Lott noted that the "people who holler the loudest about campaign reform are the ones who have been involved in what appear to be serious violations of existing laws."

He said those apparent violations would be investigated in upcoming hearings. Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party was forced to return illegal contributions from foreign nationals, prompting charges from Republicans that the party could be influenced by foreign governments.

On taxes, Mr. Gingrich said the Republicans would negotiate with the White

House to "get the largest possible tax cut" and would seek an incremental approach in tax reduction over the next few years.

"We are not just interested in making a statement, we want results," said Sen. Lott, who said he hoped to see some tax credits particularly for education, and some action to spur economic growth.

On education, Mr. Gingrich called for a system based "on performance, not certification."

Mr. Gingrich stressed the need for dramatic improvement in U.S. education so that Americans "can leapfrog the Europeans and the Japanese in the information age."

He also called for more voluntarism and blamed the drug scourge on a lack of religious values.

Sen. Lott meanwhile said the Republicans in Congress were not interested in partisanship. "We are going to have an agenda for the American people," he added.

U.S., U.K. urge checks on biological arms pact

GENEVA (R) — The United States and Britain warned Tuesday of the growing threat of germ warfare and called for an agreement by 1998 to allow inspection of countries suspected of cheating on a 1972 pact banning biological weapons.

John Holum, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, described Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's biological weapons programme as "an ac-

tive menace." "Overall, the United States believes that twice as many countries now have or are actively pursuing offensive biological weapons capabilities as when the convention went into force," he said.

Mr. Holum was addressing a plenary session in Geneva of representatives from the 138 countries which have ratified the convention on biological weapons.

Britain is chairing the two-week talks, the treaty's fourth regular review conference, which began Monday.

Mr. Holum praised Russian President Boris Yeltsin for acknowledging in 1992 the massive offensive biological weapons programme which Russia inherited from the Soviet Union.

But he added: "The challenge to demonstrate full eradication of that programme still remains."

Western diplomats have

said a list of approximately 10 countries believed to be developing an offensive biological weapons programme includes Iraq and Syria.

David Davis, British minister of state for foreign affairs, told a separate briefing: "We are going to use this chairmanship to push for strong political commitment by state parties to complete and implement a tough new verification regime well before the new review conference in the year 2001."



A refugee woman washes her two day old baby within the Mungunga refugee camp as she waits for transfer to Rwanda. She was among a group of some 50 refugees from Katala camp who had been hiding for over three weeks in the forest before making their way to safety (Reuters photo)

African states still back Ghali

UNITED NATIONS (R) — African states so far have remained firm in supporting Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for a second five-year term, despite impatience by the United States and some other Security Council members.

"We don't have any (new) list. It is composed of one person, Dr. Boutros Ghali," said Botswana's U.N. Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, after a Council meeting Monday.

The United States used its veto last Tuesday while the other 14 members supported Dr. Ghali, 74, whose term ends on Dec. 31. Many African nations as well as France apparently hope that by not putting forward other candidates, the Council at minimum can negotiate a compromise for a two-year term.

The 15-seat Council, which casts the decisive vote, has agreed to give priority to candidates from Africa on the grounds that if Dr. Ghali is denied the second term given his predecessors, he should at least be followed by another African.

African nations also do not want to submit Dr. Ghali's name for another vote, fearing his support may drop among members who do not believe the United States will change its mind and want to see other candidates submitted, diplomats said.

Some Council members expressed impatience at the delay in the proceedings during closed door Council consultations Monday, including Britain, Russia, Germany, Poland and South Korea, one envoy said.

It's a new note that they were hitting," but Egypt's veteran Ambassador Nabil Al Araby, whose skillful diplomacy has kept Cairo in the U.N. chief was still the sole candidate. Asked when another vote would be taken, he said "when there are 15."

President Paul Biya of Cameroon, head of the Organisation of African Unity, is expected to telephone heads of African nations this week, but no one expects a quick reply from 52 members before the Council meets on the subject again Friday.

France, one of Dr. Ghali's strongest backers, was reported to have urged African leaders not to put forward other candidates, in hopes of pressuring Washington into a compromise.

As a fallback strategy, France is said to want francophone African states to unite behind one candidate. A Franco-African meeting is scheduled for Burkina Faso on Dec. 5.

French envoys have not revealed their strategy, though confirmed by other diplomats and spelled out in the French daily Le Monde. The paper criticised Paris for dividing African nations unnecessarily and using the

"impeccable mastery of the language of molieres" as a prime criteria.

Some African nations have candidates they want to promote for the job. But they have been told to hold back on making a formal proposal at this time.

Among Africans mentioned as potential candidates are Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana, who heads U.N. peacekeeping operations; Anwar Essy, foreign minister of the Ivory Coast; Hamid Alghabid of Niger, secretary-general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity and Olara Otunnu, a former Ugandan U.N. envoy who heads the New York-based International Peace Academy.

The United States says Dr. Ghali has spent too little time reforming and streamlining U.N. bodies. More realistically, Washington says it cannot get the \$1.4 billion it owes the world body from a Republican-dominated Congress while he is in office.

Washington has not proposed an alternative candidate, knowing that anyone backed would be automatically rejected. Few diplomats believe there is a genuine major grievance against Dr. Ghali, saying he and the United Nations have been made scapegoats for American foreign policy frustrations.

Shuttle crew plucks satellite from space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Columbia used its long robotic arm to pluck a prototype satellite factory from space Monday after swooping past a second satellite orbiting nearby.

"Wake Shield is grappled," astronaut Tamara Jernigan said after the grapple on the end of the 50-foot (17-metre) arm reached out and grabbed the satellite at 9:01 p.m. est (0201 GMT Tuesday).

The astronauts then turned off systems on Wake Shield before Ms. Jernigan lowered the robot arm to stow the satellite in Columbia's cargo bay about 350 kilometres above South America.

Retrieval of the Wake Shield Facility had been moved up by about three hours from the original schedule so the Orfeus-Spas Telescope, an orbiting observatory also deployed by

Columbia, would not stray too close to it, NASA officials said.

NASA had never before flown the shuttle in formation with two recoverable satellites. But NASA officials said everything went according to plan during the complicated rendezvous and retrieval Monday night.

Wake Shield was about 26 kilometres from Orfeus-Spas when Columbia swooped between them and retrieved the stainless steel disk 12 feet (4 metres) in diameter. NASA had said they had to be separated by 20 kilometres for a safe operation.

"Congratulations on a flawless rendezvous and a great capture of the Wake Shield satellite," spacecraft communicator Marc Garneau told the crew, now more than one-third through its 16-day mission.

Jeff Burt, mission operations director, told a news conference after the retrieval that the shuttle's satellite communications were briefly interrupted shortly before the retrieval because of a computer problem on the ground.

But he said the problem would not have affected the retrieval even if it had continued.

When the Columbia's five-member crew woke up Monday, they were 37 kilometres ahead of Wake Shield, which Columbia had released Friday night. The crew moved the orbiter closer to the satellite during the day by firing Columbia's manoeuvring jets as the two craft circled far from Earth.

Earlier Monday, flight officials congratulated astronaut Story Musgrave, 61, on exceeding 1,000 hours in space. Musgrave, the oldest person to fly in space, was making his sixth and probably last shuttle flight.

Judge rejects bail for accused CIA spy

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (R) — A judge Monday ordered accused CIA double-agent Harold Nicholson held in jail pending trial on charges of conspiracy to spy for Russia.

Despite testimonials from Mr. Nicholson's mother, sister, brother and a childhood friend, Federal Judge Thomas Rawles Jones denied a request that the 46-year-old one-time CIA station chief be let out on bail to help prepare his defence.

"By definition, there is a place in the world — Russia — that would welcome Mr. Nicholson and give him a safe haven," chief prosecutor Robert Chesnut told the court.

Judge Jones cited what he called "weighty evidence" Mr. Nicholson may have committed a serious crime and added that he "may very well possess ... still untransmitted" classified information of great interest to foreign powers.

Prosecutors also presented evidence of what they called a previously undisclosed Swiss bank account into which Mr. Nicholson allegedly had deposited at least \$61,000.

But Defence Attorney Liam O'Grady portrayed his client, a divorced father of three who will plead innocent, as a devoted parent with no intention to flee. He said Mr. Nicholson, the highest-ranking CIA officer ever charged with espionage, was eager to help reveal unspecified "huge holes in this case."

Mr. O'Grady also said Mr. Nicholson would have nowhere to hide if he did try to run, asserting he may have surpassed O.J. Simpson as the "most visible accused criminal in the United States and world" in the past week.

Mr. Nicholson was arrested on Nov. 16 at Washington's Dulles Airport as he was about to fly to Switzerland, allegedly to give his Russian handlers U.S. National Security secrets.

A one-count indictment handed up by a federal grand jury last week accused him of taking more than \$180,000 for spying for Moscow from June 1994 until his arrest. During that time he allegedly gave away classified documents and unmasked undercover Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers.

During his 16-year career as a CIA operations officer, Mr. Nicholson served as station chief in Romania and deputy chief of station in Malaysia. He also served in the Philippines, Thailand and Japan as well as lecturing in spy craft at a training camp for CIA recruits in Virginia.

Clad in a tan-and-blue jump suit, stenciled "Alexandria Jail," he sat silently during the nearly two-hour hearing, exchanging only faint smiles with family members who must have an innocent explanation. They flew in Sunday night from Eugene, Oregon, to offer the equity in his parents' home as a bond.

Regarding the Swiss bank account, FBI Stephen Hooper testified that it was Bank Leu in Zurich and the Swiss had frozen it while they tried to determine its balance.



Common police and military forces (Reuters photo)

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Comoros police and military walk past part of the Ethiopian airliner after it was towed to the beach in Moroni City Comoros (Reuters photo)

Comoros police have wrong hijack suspects in detention

MORONI (AFP) — Two men arrested as the suspected hijackers of an Ethiopian airliner that crashed into the Indian Ocean off the Comoro Islands are not the hijackers after all, Ethiopian Radio said Tuesday, quoting police.

The pair, from Kenya and Djibouti, had nothing to do with the hijacking Saturday that claimed at least 120 lives on a flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi Sunday had called for the speedy extradition of the two suspects.

The Ethiopian Radio confirmed Tuesday that the three hijackers were Ethiopian, and said they probably died in the crash, whose precise death toll was still unclear, but between 120 and 127.

On Monday, Comorian police had said that the Boeing's pilot and co-pilot, still suffering from shock over the disaster, were unable to formally identify the suspects.

There were 175 people aboard the plane, which came down on a shallow reef off the tiny Indian Ocean islands, apparently after it ran out of fuel as it was trying to land.

Also Tuesday, a volunteer diver died while looking for victims' bodies, said a rescue team returning from the scene in the north of Grande Comore Island, where part of the plane's fuselage has been washed to shore by the tide, not far from the South African-run La Galawa Beach Hotel.

The Comorian diver was among several volunteers

who have taken part in search and rescue work since Saturday. French divers were also participating in the search, which continued Tuesday.

The death toll in the hijacking has not been formally established. Comorian authorities say 55 of the 175 passengers and crew survived, while the French Foreign Ministry says there were 52 survivors, and Ethiopian Airlines officials say there were 48.

Further adding to the confusion, a Comorian Red Cross worker said Tuesday that there were 51 survivors.

Identification of the bodies was continuing Tuesday in Moroni, where for lack of morgue space the cadavers are being kept in meat freezers.

Diplomatic missions in Moroni have begun recovering the bodies of their respective nationals as they are identified. Israel has repatriated the remains of its citizens who died in the disaster, sources here said.

The pilot and co-pilot were the only individuals who had had enough interaction with the hijackers to be able to recognise them, Moroni police said Monday.

According to the pilots' account, the plane was hijacked 15 minutes after taking off from Addis Ababa by two men who forced their way into the cockpit and told the crew to fly to Australia via Mauritius.

A third man remained in the cabin, where he threatened the passengers.

Russia premier in Paris as foes slam Chechen deal

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, brushing aside Communist attacks on a deal he signed with Chechen rebels, began a visit to France Tuesday aimed at boosting his country's image among Western investors.

But his trip looked set to be overshadowed by the opposition's threat to try and impeach President Boris Yeltsin following his concessions on Chechnya and by continued uncertainty over the funding of Russia's economic reforms.

Before flying to Paris Monday evening Mr. Chernomyrdin signalled that Moscow was ready to tackle one of the last obstacles blocking its return to full financial respectability.

He said Russia would honour debts run up by the pre-1917 tsarist government that were disavowed by the Soviet Communists.

The details have still to be worked out, Mr. Chernomyrdin added.

Many of the heirs to the

tsar's creditors live in France and are claiming back some 140 to 160 billion French francs (\$27.5-\$31 billion) taking account of unpaid interest since the Bolshevik Revolution.

Asked if he intended to finalise an agreement to repay the debts while in France, he told reporters: "We will, I think today we will resolve this question. We will, because we are Russia. We will pay all our debts."

The announcement followed Russia's debut last week on the international capital markets with a \$1 billion five-year Eurobond. It was not placed in France because of the outstanding compensation claims by the holders of tsarist debt.

On Monday Mr. Chernomyrdin, who was also due to visit Poland this week, met Mr. Yeltsin for 1-1/2 hours at the Barvikha Sanatorium near Moscow where the president is convalescing.

It was the longest reported working meeting the presi-

dent has had since his heart bypass operation on Nov. 5. Doctors say Mr. Yeltsin should be back at work in the Kremlin by year-end.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin discussed efforts to pay overdue wages to public sector workers and the armed forces and the situation in Belarus, where a weekend referendum backed sweeping new powers for hardline President Alexander Lukashenko.

But the main focus of their talks was the deal for Chechnya, already branded by Communists in the State Duma lower house of parliament as a betrayal of Russian national interests.

The Communists said they would try to impeach Mr. Yeltsin for agreeing to withdraw all remaining Russian troops from Chechnya, a decision that effectively meets every rebel demand except recognition of full independence.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov accused Mr. Yeltsin of treason and said Saturday's accord, signed by Mr. Chernomyrdin and Chechen government leader Aslan Maskhadov, was a "malignant tumour."

Gennady Seleznyov, the Communist speaker of the State Duma, said the Ouma would consider over the next few days whether the accords breached the constitution.

If there had been a constitutional fault, then the question of impeachment could be raised Friday, the speaker said.

With power concentrated in Mr. Yeltsin's hands under Russia's constitution any impeachment moves stand little chance of success but even talk of ousting the president risks scaring off foreign investors and increasing political instability.

The Duma could, for example, make trouble for the 1997 budget, which is already in the middle of a stormy passage through parliament.

Clinton seeks to 'work together' with Asia

BANGKOK (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton, wrapping up a visit to the Asia-Pacific, stressed Tuesday Washington's commitment to the region and said all nations must work together to deal with such common threats as illegal drugs and AIDS.

In a speech summarising a lengthy trip including stops in Australia and the Philippines as well as private talks with the leaders of China, Japan and South Korea, Mr. Clinton praised the progress made in the Pacific rim but said many problems remained.

"We must deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century," Mr. Clinton said in a speech at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, where several thousand people waited outside to cheer him.

"For all its promise, the 21st century will not be free of peril," said Mr. Clinton, speaking at the same university where President Lyndon Johnson addressed

students 30 years ago, during the height of the Vietnam War.

"Let us not be blind to the fact that as barriers crumble, and borders blur and progress spreads quickly, so too can troubles spread quickly in this new world," he said.

Citing such problems as environmental threats, AIDS, drug trafficking and the rise of organised crime, Mr. Clinton warned that "these forces of destruction defy traditional defences... No nation is immune to the forces of destruction and none can defeat these threats alone. Therefore we must work together."

Thailand has cracked down on its heroin producers, but it remains a major route of traffickers smuggling illegal drugs out of South East Asia.

"As he has throughout his 12 days away from Washington, Mr. Clinton stressed U.S. interest in the Asia Pacific, saying "that commitment is stronger

than ever, for in the 21st century, America's future cannot be secure if Asia's future is in doubt."

Mr. Clinton, who arrived in Thailand Monday night following a summit in the Philippines of the leaders of the 18-member Asian-Pacific economic cooperation forum, praised the group's final declaration as an example of the spirit that drives the region heading into the next century.

He met privately with outgoing Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa and also was due to meet the Thai premier's successor, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, whose New Aspiration Party won a slim victory in the country's Nov. 17 election.

During his speech, Mr. Clinton praised the democratic process in Thailand, calling this month's elections a "milestone" in your democratic journey.

Noting that he has experienced victory and defeat at the hands of voters, Mr. Clinton said that "while los-

ing is not as good as winning, whenever power is transferred peacefully and democratically, everyone in that nation is a winner."

Earlier, at an outdoor ceremony, Mr. Clinton witnessed the signing of a tax treaty between the two nations that took more than a decade to negotiate. It eliminates double taxation on the earnings of U.S. firms operating in Thailand and on their counterparts in the United States.

Mr. Clinton said during the ceremony that the "signing reminds us that governments do not create wealth, but governments can create the climate in which our workers, our entrepreneurs, our investors and business people can thrive."

The U.S. president has been stressing American interest and commitment to the Pacific rim throughout his 12-day trip, which also took him to Australia.

Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary were to return to the United States Wednesday.

Seoul sends N. Korean sailor home

SEOUL (R) — South Korea sent home a rescued North Korean sailor Tuesday and awaited a response from the Communist state to a renewed call for peace talks.

Military officials said the sailor, Chung Kwang-Son, private first class in North Korea's navy, was escorted by United Nations Command representatives and handed over to North Korean officers at the border village of Panmunjom.

Once on North Korean soil, Mr. Chung raised his arms and shouted "hooray, hooray" several times before bursting into tears as he was embraced by senior Communist officers and his colleagues who travelled to the border to meet him, witnesses said.

North Korean Colonel Park Im-Su decorated Mr. Chung with a badge of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il on his lapel, they said.

Col. Park also thanked his U.N. Command counterpart Colonel Ashton Ormes for

sending Mr. Chung home on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Chung, 19, was picked up by a South Korean Maritime Police vessel and taken to the Western port city of Incheon Saturday after his boat drifted into Southern waters.

Mr. Chung's return was the first goodwill gesture by Seoul towards Pyongyang since already-tense relations between the two Koreas worsened after a northern submarine landed 26 agents on the South Korean coast in September.

All but two of the 26 are known to be dead. One has been captured and another is still at large.

Mr. Chung's return home comes two days after U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean leader Kim Young-Sam urged the North "to take acceptable steps to resolve the submarine incident, reduce tension and avoid such provocations in the future."

At a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders in the Philippines, Mr. Clinton and Mr.

Kim also renewed an invitation to North Korea to join four-nation peace talks, which would also involve China.

The two leaders jointly proposed the peace talks in April to discuss replacing the truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War with a lasting peace.

Seoul officials said South Korea's Kim told Mr. Clinton that once the North agreed to talks the next task would be to seek an apology from Pyongyang over the submarine incursion and assurances that such an incident would not be repeated.

South Korea had previously said it would freeze all contacts and assistance to North Korea until it apologises for the submarine incursion.

Col. Park and Col. Ormes later discussed the submarine incident at Panmunjom, a U.N. Command spokesman said.

"The North Korean side insisted the submarine incident was an accident and

demanding the repatriation of the bodies of the 24 North Koreans," the spokesman said.

"Colonel Ormes told Park the manner should be discussed and resolved between North and South Korea," he added.

South Korean analysts said Pyongyang was expected to explain its stand, particularly on the four-nation peace talks and its willingness to seek detente with the South, to U.S. Congressmen Bill Richardson.

Mr. Richardson flew from Tokyo to Pyongyang Monday in hopes of securing the release of American detainee Evan Carl Hunziker, who was arrested on Aug. 24 after crossing the Yalu River from China into North Korea.

Mr. Richardson, a Democrat from New Mexico close to the Clinton administration, postponed his planned Tuesday departure by one day without giving a reason, U.S. officials said.

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Belarus president tightens grip on power

MINSK (AFP) — Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko tightened his grip on power as his supporters in parliament set up a new loyal assembly and declared the existing parliament defunct Tuesday even as it continued its work.

Ivan Pashkevich, a pro-Lukashenko deputy, said the new parliament, which met behind closed doors at the Palace of Youth near the presidency, consisted of 111 deputies.

Meanwhile, more than 60 deputies remained at the 199-seat existing parliament, the Supreme Soviet, accusing Mr. Lukashenko and his allies of staging a "coup d'etat."

In a controversial referendum Sunday, Mr. Lukashenko won a landslide vote to change the constitution and replace the single-

chamber parliament, still called the Supreme Soviet, with a new two-house legislature.

The president and the upper house of parliament would have the right to veto lower house decisions under the new constitution.

The constitutional changes proposed by the referendum also gave Mr. Lukashenko, a former Communist apparatchik and collective farm boss elected in 1994, a second five-year term.

Political opponents and human rights activists accuse Mr. Lukashenko of nuzzling all opposition and creating a dictatorship in the former Soviet republic of 10.3 million inhabitants sandwiched between Russia and Poland.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe cited irregularities in the referendum, which Mr. Lukashenko declared to be binding, despite an earlier Russian-brokered compromise to make it only consultative.

The Central Electoral Commission said 70.5 per cent of the 7.3 million registered voters backed Mr. Lukashenko's proposed changes, and only 7.9 per cent supported a rival proposal from Communist deputies to scrap the presidency.

The Kremlin, which mediated in the power struggle between Mr. Lukashenko and the parliament last week, said the results of the referendum would have to be accepted.

Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said that President Boris Yeltsin "is

aware of the results of the referendum and knows that a majority of voters supported it."

Pro-Lukashenko deputies urged the opposition to leave the existing parliament and "work in the new assembly" Tuesday.

The new parliament began meeting at the Soviet-era Palace of Youth two hours later.

Vasily Shechukin, an opposition deputy who attended the session of the new parliament, said more than 100 deputies were present.

In the old parliament, a draft resolution condemning the referendum as "illegal" was not adopted because the chamber was not quorate, with less than 100 deputies present.

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Source of confidence

THE JD1.916 million draft budget for 1997 unveiled on Monday by Minister of Finance Marwan Awad contains many striking features which, in their cumulative effect, suggest that the country's financial house is in order. More importantly, there is a clear message in the draft budget that the country is well on its way to achieving self-reliance. The best evidence of this is the fact that the 1997 budget envisages a 3.9 per cent deficit when projected foreign assistance is excluded even though it projects an 11.1 per cent increase in expenditures over fiscal 1996. Dubbed by the minister of finance and rightly so as an "austerity budget," it is clearly in line with the national economic restructuring programme that aims to attain the goal of 2.5 per cent deficit by the year 1998. It is remarkable what the country has been able to accomplish over the past few years. Successive governments have managed to bring down the deficit from 24 per cent of the gross national product in 1989 to 3.9 per cent for 1997. This is no modest achievement by any standard. The Kabariti government deserves to be commended for continuing the positive approach of its predecessors and crowning it by putting the goal of self-reliance closer. It has also managed to maintain a high level of subsidies for basic staples such as bread as well as a sizeable "social safety net" for the people. Understandably, there will be no increase in salaries for civil servants according to the draft budget. At the same time, though, there will be no new taxes or levies under the new budget, something that will be music to the ears of all citizens.

It goes without saying that the national restructuring programme is called for by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a condition for the bank's certification for rescheduling the country's huge external debts. The bitter medicine that we all have to swallow in order to improve our overall economic situation is necessary for the time being and as long as necessary till economic growth reaches new horizons. It is comforting that our economy grew by 5.2 per cent in 1996 and is projected to attain a 6.5 per cent growth rate in 1997. This is a big feat by any international standard when most countries are struggling to achieve even a two per cent growth rate. That is why we feel confident that the Kingdom has done all it could to improve the lot of all of us under difficult circumstances.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Tuesday urged the Arab countries to refrain from negotiating with the implementation of peace accords. Tayseer Zibri said that in light of the past two months of futile Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, it has become clear that the Israeli government is not interested in the least in any peace with the Arabs. The Israeli leadership continues to deceive the world with its bragging about their desire to reach peace with the Palestinians, but the facts on the ground speak otherwise, he said. The leaders continue to deceive the U.S. Congress, the American administration and the visitors in Israel with their misleading statements about peace with their neighbours, but they apply a double-standard policy which has now been exposed to the whole world. In view of this situation, it is pointless to maintain negotiations that revolve in a vicious circle, with no results except to give the Israelis further leeway to consolidate their hold on the Arab lands, said the writer. The Israelis are trying to convince the world that the Syrians are not in a position to go to war to regain their usurped territories and are bound to negotiate peace and that the Jordanians are serious in their quest to attain full normalisation with the Jewish state, which helps improve the Israeli image, he added. All forms of negotiations should stop, he added, in order to expose the Israeli government's real intentions to the outside world.

A WRITER for Al Doustour strongly criticised arrangements under way for holding an Israeli trade fair in Amman, saying that such a move would only escalate internal political tension and harm Palestinian-Jordanian relations. Mohammad Subeishi said it is illogical to hold the fair in Amman and help the Israelis market their products in the Arab countries at a time when Egypt is trying to contain the Israeli trade expansion in the Arab World and when the Israelis are imposing a repressive rule in the occupied Arab lands and failing to implement the Palestinian-Israeli peace accords. The writer said that arrangements for holding the fair by Dec. 15 should come to an immediate end for Jordan's credibility and image in the Arab World not to be harmed. The Israeli fair, he said, is aimed at promoting the sale of Israeli goods in Arab countries and further aggravating the unemployment situation in Jordan and the Arab states.

The Washington Watch

U.S.' stand against Ghali, will 'erode public confidence in the U.N.'

By Dr. James Zogby

BOUTROS GHALI'S campaign for reelection as secretary general of the United Nations has generated an intense debate in the U.S. At the same time, the U.S.' opposition to the secretary general has become a defining moment for the United Nations.

On the one hand, U.S. opposition to Mr. Ghali appears to have been driven by partisan politics. Both isolationists from the far-right and conservative internationalists who have supported American hegemony made the U.N. a target during the presidential campaign. There was an appeal to bigotry in their attacks. When both far-right challenger Pat Buchanan and Republican nominee Bob Dole spoke about the U.N., they sought to personalise their attacks by singling out the secretary general by name. In Buchanan's address before the Republican convention and Dole's address at the convention both used virtually the same language in their demand that "no U.S. soldiers should ever have to take orders from Boutros Ghali." And the way they emphasised the foreign sounds of the name and the cheers and jeers that this generated made it clear that more than a little racism was at work here.

This campaign rhetoric reflected the growing resistance in Congress to support the U.N. For several years now Congress has been refusing to pay the full U.S. dues, especially to support U.N. peacekeeping missions. For some in Congress, the issue was the need for U.N. fiscal reform, for most it was hostility to the concept of a world body — which for the far-right is an anathema since in their view it subjugates U.S. sovereignty to the prospects of a "world government."

Throughout this unseemly debate the Clinton administration remained faithful to its support of the U.N. and defence of the principle of international cooperation. The president

has even spoken highly of the secretary general, praising him just over a year ago on his "leadership... energy... resolve... and vision of the world for the next fifty years."

It is for this reason that many supporters of the U.N. and Boutros Ghali were shocked six months ago when the Clinton administration abruptly announced that it would refuse to endorse the secretary general's bid for a second-term at the U.N. and demanded that he step down at the end of his term.

To some in the U.S. it appeared that the administration was playing politics by attempting to take an issue away from the Republican Party. To those who supported the U.N. and international cooperation it represented a dangerous concession to far-right extremists.

It was generally assumed that once the elections were over the administration would work out a compromise solution with the secretary general and the issue would pass. Many prestigious editorial writers stated as much in pieces in the Washington Post and the New York Times and other major U.S. papers.

"For some in Congress, the issue was the need for U.N. fiscal reform, for most it was hostility to the concept of a world body — which for the far-right is an anathema since in their view it subjugates U.S. sovereignty to the prospects of a 'world government'."

Now that the administration has dug in its heels and provoked a near crisis situation at the U.N., there is a general sense of bewilderment, embarrassment and some anger at the U.S. stand.

The secretary general has received the support of a number of U.S. senators, leaders of the U.S. Catholic Church, the

National Council of Churches, representing all the major U.S. Protestant denominations, and major Jewish and Arab American leaders as well.

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), before the November elections, charged that the administration was "letting our own domestic politics determine a choice that should be made in our own national interest, and in the interests of the U.N. and the international community."

He further stated that the U.S. position was "unfortunate since it was creating a wedge between the U.S. and our friends in Africa." He went on to note that it was "unseemly that the U.S. which owes more back dues than any nation of the world combined, has taken a position contrary to the majority of the U.N. members."

After the November elections Simon again spoke out saying that the U.S. veto of Boutros Ghali was "not worthy of a great power. Greatness suggests something other than a crude use of power."

Echoing those thoughts, New York Times writer A. M. Rosenthal has accused the administration of "squandering assets for no reason" in opposing the

Washington Post, Steven Rosenfeld chided the Clinton administration for waging a campaign against Boutros Ghali. Rosenfeld notes that the administration has compromised its own support for the U.N. and has "united just about every nation in the world" against the U.S.

What is especially troubling to many Americans who share the vision of a strong U.N. is the decidedly harsh and brazen rhetoric that has accompanied the assault on the secretary general. The comments of an "unnamed U.S. official" are a case in point. Warning that the U.S. veto was irrevocable, the official stated:

"The United States regrets the insistence of other countries on pushing at what is a closed, locked, and bolted door. We are determined to find a new secretary general, and the sooner the other members realise that, the sooner we can move ahead... Boutros Ghali will not be secretary general on Jan. 1."

Appearing as a guest on my weekly radio programme on the ANA Radio Network last week, Mr. Ghali was diplomatic as he addressed the U.S. position. He insisted that he did not create this crisis, nor did he fully understand the U.S. reasoning behind its opposition to his reelection. He maintained that he could not serve without U.S. support since the U.S. is the major superpower in the world today and insisted that he still hopes a compromise can be achieved.

The secretary general deeply cares about the future of the world body and is committed to its reform and role in the rapidly changing post-cold war world. He acknowledges his failures but is proud of his accomplishments, noting his fiscal reform measures, his leadership in focusing the world community on the problems of globalisation, and efforts to support democracy.

Given the secretary gen-

eral's record, the broad support he has received from virtually every member nation of the U.N., and the U.S.' own commitment to international cooperation, the strident U.S. opposition to Mr. Ghali is indeed troubling.

The U.S. has clearly not established its case against the secretary general and there are deep suspicions, particularly in the Arab World. Some suspect, for example, that the U.S. position is based entirely on a personal vendetta against Mr. Ghali, possibly due to his release of a report on the Cana massacre which embarrassed the Israeli government. Others view the U.S. move as a U.S. power play designed to impose its will on the world body.

Having failed to establish its case, the harsh U.S. position risks both U.S. credibility and U.N. legitimacy. The crisis has become a defining moment for the U.N. and for the U.S. role in the world body in the post-cold war era.

As both Rosenthal and Rosenfeld argue, with the U.S. refusing to pay its dues (it owes more in back dues than the entire annual U.N. budget), the U.S. is expending capital in this fight that it simply does not have.

And by playing into the hands of the far-right critics of the U.N. instead of fighting them, the administration's position in this effort only seems to further erode U.S. public confidence in the U.N. At the same time, the administration is damaging U.S. leadership at the U.N. and the damage done here may be to the long-term detriment of the U.S. and the U.N. itself.

The secretary general, to his credit, is aware of those multiple dangers. And while he does not want to contribute to the demise of the institution he has served, he appears to know that his fight for a compromise solution provides the best hope to save both the U.S. and the U.N. from the current disastrous impasse.

IT OCCURRED TO ME

To half honour and obey

By Ali Kassay

A LITTLE over two months ago, when I completed the legal and religious parts of marriage, leaving self and spouse with the administrative and social dimensions of the operation still to be completed, I wrote about the power which I have come to wield over my better half. To be perfectly honest, when I said that she needed my permission to procure a passport, I really believed that I was pointing out a quaint relic of old conventions which no one takes seriously any more.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. This we discovered when we came around to the administrative procedures that had to be completed for the Civil Status Department to recognise us as married. I actually had to go in person, manifest a proof of identity and sign before the vigilant eye of officialdom a declaration stating that I have no objection to my wife getting a passport.

I find the fact of having this power curious enough; but even more curious is the philosophy that it highlights. To start with, there is no reciprocity since I do not need her approval to get my passport. Moreover, her passport identifies her as the wife of Ali Kassay, while mine makes no reference whatsoever to my marital status. Finally, the procedure seems to assume that the normal state of affairs is for paterfamilias to deny his spouse this document, or in the exceptional cases where he does not, then he should state it in writing. Otherwise, why not adopt the less bothersome procedure of assuming that a woman citizen, of sound mind, is entitled to have a passport, unless there is a legal ban issued by a court of law?

Well, we confound people who pose such questions by asserting that we actually honour the woman by giving her half an inheritance, half the weight of a man's testimony before the law, and only half control over her destiny. The reason, any Jordanian can inform you, is that a woman has only half of a man's sense and virtue. I accept this attitude without reservation; but I permit myself to propose that we take it to its logical conclusion, by extending the half-citizen status of this half of our society, to include duties as well as rights.

For instance, we should start at kindergarten by requesting girls to attend half the number of school hours required of boys. When Jordanian students in their thousands sit the tawjihi, or school leaving exam, girls should receive the same marks as boys for answering half the number of questions.

At university, women should receive their doctorates for submitting theses half as deeply researched as men. In professional life, a Jordanian woman should be required to produce half as much as a man, though this may be quite hard to achieve in the public sector. Above all, when a woman takes a loan, she should be required to repay only half of the sum. Finally, when a woman commits a crime, the law should penalise her by a term half as severe as men. It may work, you know.

'Dictator's legacy' raises doubts for democracy

By Shakil Shakil

Islamabad — There is widespread scepticism in Pakistan about the president's repeated assurances that elections will be held as promised, following his dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government.

After dissolving the National Assembly, the lower house of the bicameral parliament, President Sarfaraz Ahmad Khan Leghari announced that elections would be held on Feb. 6, in accordance with the 90-day constitutional provision.

"People's memories of the 11 years of dictatorship they suffered under Zia Ul Haq last time elections were postponed beyond 90 days are still relatively fresh," pointed out the Islamabad-based English daily newspaper The Nation.

Zia, an army general, promised to hold elections within 90 days when he imposed martial law in 1977 — but did not restore even partial democracy until 1985 and continued in power until his death in an unexplained crash in 1988.

One reason for suspecting the intentions of President Leghari is that he had often been quoted as saying that he would never resort to Article 58 of the constitution to dismiss the Benazir Bhutto government since the provision was the legacy of a dictator. But, at the end of the day, he did.

This is not the first time the article has been used to dissolve the National Assembly and dismiss an elected government before the end of its five-year tenure. In the past, ousted administrations have blamed the military for their removal.

This time, Mr. Bhutto was careful not to accuse the army of involvement when she was dismissed on Nov. 5 amid allegations of widespread corruption and economic mismanagement. She said: "The army did not interfere in politics during my government."

of the government's removal, but a military spokesman said they had merely been acting on the president's orders to protect sensitive installations.

Ms. Bhutto hit out at the president, describing his actions as "undemocratic, uncalculated and unconstitutional," and challenging the government's dismissal and parliamentary dissolution in the supreme court.

She and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are more concerned with righting the wrong she believes she has suffered than in demanding a quick poll.

"If we are not restored, there is no way the next elections could be fair and free with Faruq Leghari being the president," she commented. "My party wants a level playing field, which could only be possible if the president resigns. I do not believe the caretaker administration wants to have elections on Feb. 3."

But the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Sharif, said the government's dismissal "reflects the nation's aspirations," adding: "Elections should not be delayed."

Mr. Sharif became prime minister in 1990 when Mr. Bhutto was pushed aside by the military, but he was then defeated by her in the 1993 election. He is hoping that her three years in power, and particularly her harsh economic policies, will ensure her electoral defeat.

An election would be an important test for two other parties.

The religion-based Jamaat-e-Islami played a major role in bringing down the Bhutto administration by staging a series of public demonstrations. "Our movement is for a better, prosperous and true Islamic state," says party leader Qari Hussain Ahmad. But its ability to organise street protests may not translate into votes.

And for former cricket star Imran Khan, chief of the recently formed

Tehrik-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice), an election offers the first chance to put his personal popularity to the political test.

In the meantime, the president is calling the shots, and placing his favourites in the caretaker cabinet as heads of government departments.

Oddly, President Leghari was for years a PPP loyalist and stood with Benazir Bhutto in the years after

General Zia deposed and executed her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The Nation, however, commented: "The president's action comes as no great surprise. No matter what Ms. Bhutto may have in say in self-defence the charges levelled against her government are prima facie substantial, and she has only herself to blame for getting trapped in a credibility crisis."

Now it is the president's credibility that is on the line. If charges against the ousted PPP leaders are not established within three months, the president's action will appear to have been unjustified. If he then uses that argument to extend the 90-day limit, the sceptics will say: "I told you so."

Gemini News Service

LETTERS

Paying the price of crime

To the Editor:

MANY ARE the crimes committed in the name of "honour". All victims, except by error, are females. Some people still fail to understand why the same act, when committed by a woman, is considered disgraceful and when committed by a man, is negligible. An interesting and confusing phenomenon, indeed.

In the old days of jahiliya (i.e., ignorance), some fourteen hundred years ago, men used to dig a little hole in the sand with their own hands, bury their newly born infant daughters, and go back home and drink tea; that because a girl was a potential source to bring disgrace to the honour of the family.

Nowadays, the woman is not buried while breathing, but rather shot, stabbed, slaughtered, burned, strangled, poisoned, as adult, in some cases the mere suspicion that she has an "immoral" contact with a man.

A woman, any woman, even if she were formally and legally engaged to a man, stands the chance of losing her life if they decide to go out for a walk or a drive. Couples in Jordan tend to prefer a rite to avoid the invading looks of curious eyes. But when the car takes its passengers to a more quiet spot, the ghost of terror takes a bolder menacing posture.

Recently and over the last years, women lost their lives simply because they were in the company of their fiancées or boyfriends. The killers were not related to any of those women or their companions. Mere chance or destiny led them to their tragic end. In those cases, intruders illegally armed with lethal

weapons, decided to invade the privacy of other people and collect their "dues" in their own manner and law.

Besides losing one member of the family, the kin of the victim, by habit and tradition, not by law, cannot unannounced their grief and loss. Is there a more harsh or severe agony that can be endured by human beings, anywhere, any time? What can be done to curb this vicious behaviour and deter the blood-thirsty adventures?

One suggestion is that the killer of a woman for "suspected" immorality, should not be hanged or imprisoned for life, but rather be fined by the state a heavy financial penalty. Even if the family involved drops charges, the state should have a say in that.

Maybe when people realise that it is not only the neck of a hot-blooded lad that is at stake but rather their welfare and financial assets, they start thinking twice before doing and condoning such acts.

A personal and social disgrace cannot be buried with the body of the victim. Recurrent incidents strip the issue of "personalisation" and transform them into issues that come under state jurisdiction.

A crime cannot be redressed by putting an end to the life of another person or by life-time imprisonment. Crime can be avoided by showing all members of the society that a larger circle of people shares the responsibility and other people than the murderers must pay the price as well.

Salim Ayoub, Amman.

Tug-of-war

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Tug-of-war seen in the making

(Continued from page 1)

anti-trust draft law, leasing of machinery and equipment law, an amended free zones law, and an amended law on managing public funds.

In his speech from the Throne last week, His Majesty King Hussein said that these laws aim to maximise the role of the private sector in production within the framework of economic freedom, and a division of roles, responsibilities and jurisdiction in a manner that would ensure accountability and guarantee fair and efficient supervision.

The King added that "these laws will also enable us to raise the level of national production to international standards and to protect it against unfair competition, be it domestic and foreign."

Director of the Technical Support Unit at the Ministry of Planning Yusuf Mansur told the Jordan Times that these laws "would send the world a sign that Jordan is preparing for an investment climate" which will attract foreign capital and enable the financial market to expand its operations.

He said that the draft securities law is prepared in accordance with the international bourse system. Thus, he added, "our stock market would be comparable to those of the rest of the world."

The draft competition and anti-trust law, he said, would prevent all kinds of

monopolistic practices to the benefit of the consumers.

"There was nothing like this law in Jordan" which will allow for legal competition as well as prevent cheating on bids, said Dr. Mansur.

The amended companies law, which is "very transparent and investment friendly," would help eliminate old bureaucratic procedures that hampered the operation of companies.

Dr. Mansur said that draft customs law will make customs procedures more efficient as it will be based on a computer system which will provide objective data on goods.

Under this law, only five per cent of the shipment would be opened for inspection, said Dr. Mansur, pointing to the significance of this in expediting the entry of imported goods to the market.

Dr. Mansur echoed Dr. Muasher in stressing the importance of these draft laws for the economic reform process, saying that they will encourage investments and allow for more transparent economic dealings. He said the passage of these laws will give investors sufficient assurances about the solvability of Jordanian legislation in protecting their investments.

Dr. Mansur added that the draft laws were prepared by Jordanian lawyers in cooperation with foreign experts.

Child abuse — laws that should be changed, fears that must be allayed

By Laila Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

A mother took a year to file a complaint. Four children suffered as a result. Three sisters and their brother were sexually abused by their father for over a year until the mother, "ignorant, undecided and having a low feeling of self-worth", as the social worker involved in the case put it, decided to do something.

"More than a year passed before the mother, the only person according to the Jordanian law who has the right to file a complaint, used that right," said the social worker who asked not to be identified.

And now, eleven-year-old Haitham still screams in his sleep in fear of a father who is behind bars.

According to the social worker, under current law, lawyers, school counsellors, social workers and even relatives have no right to file an official complaint if they have knowledge of a case of child sexual abuse.

According to the law, only the victim has the right to file a complaint. But if the victim is a minor, he or she should be accompanied by a parent to the police station for the complaint to be accepted.

Lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader told

the Jordan Times that although the law states that a citizen will be prosecuted if he or she is a witness to or aware of a crime or a felony and does not report it to the authority, in the case of child abuse the law has little or no effect.

Although mothers are aware of the sexual abuse in a large number of cases, they refuse, due to psychological, financial and social pressures, to file a complaint against an abusive husband, stress lawyers and social workers interviewed by the Jordan Times.

A mother is terrified of the husband's threats, said lawyer and social worker Basma Ensar. She added that a husband manages to manipulate the mother's judgment by convincing her that "even if he is convicted, once out of jail, he will find her and kill her."

When Zuhra, the mother, returned home to find her five-year-old child naked, she rushed him to a public hospital. The hospital refused to carry out a physical examination without an authorisation from the police.

As the mother arrived at the police station, the husband was waiting for her.

"Zuhra had to run away, but did return in the evening, filed a complaint and had the medical examination carried out," said the social worker.

The procedures are incomprehensible, said the social worker. The official position is that when physical examination is related to "honour" it has to be done with police authorisation.

Mothers, said Ms. Ensar, usually refuse to file a complaint because they are financially dependent on the husband. "They have no other source of income," she said, adding that the mother is incapable of seeing other alternatives, especially when she was married at an early age and comes from an underprivileged background.

The family of Haitham's mother told her to return home (to her father's house) without the children, said the social worker. At the time, 30-year-old Zuhra "was extremely passive, unwilling to leave the children or her husband, to say the least," added the social worker.

The mother eventually realised that the situation would not change, said the lawyer. "She discovered that her husband was having a number of affairs, was sick of being beaten up and had the evidence which could convict the father," only then did she file a complaint.

Some mothers actually

believe that by not informing anyone about what takes place inside the house they are protecting the reputation of the family, as any "scandal" could destroy the prospect of a good marriage for her children, said Ms. Ensar.

"One needs not forget that as long as people are unaware of the devastating results of sexual abuse they will keep believing that despite the continuance of the abuse they are actually protecting the reputation of the child," said Ms. Ensar.

Lawyer In'am Asha recounted an incident where the abuser, a father, threatened his daughter to kill her in a crime of honour if she informed anyone that he was sexually abusing her. The father would claim that his daughter had a relationship with a man.

Although the mother was aware of the sexual abuse, which had started at a very early age, she never filed a complaint, Ms. Asha said.

Ms. Asha also said that in a large number of cases it is a child's word against his/her elder abuser (relative), and when a child has the courage to report his/her case, usually there is no physical evidence to convict the abuser.

The abuser has to confess to committing the crime.

According to a study conducted by Lt. Col. Bashir Bil-

beisi of the Public Security Department, 4.5 per cent of the rapes in 1995 were committed by a member of the family and 35.3 per cent of these cases were committed by the father. Of the murder cases committed against children, especially girls, 46.67 per cent were done in the name of honour.

According to specialists, in 1995 there were 380 cases of rape of children reported, representing a three-fold increase. These could go up by another three times by 1997, unless immediate measures are taken both at legal and educational levels.

According to specialists, the 380 reported cases of rape involving minors may represent only half of the actual cases committed against children.

Another problem of children sexually abused is the lack of sex education, said Ms. Asha. Some children believe that the abusive behaviour is the right of the parent or other familial elder. "One child thought it was the father's right to have sex with her," said Ms. Asha.

Unemployment or an unstable income is a common factor among 75.3 per cent of the abusers. Sexual violence committed by the unemployed against children "is their way of getting back at the society,"

They tend to become more violent due to their inability to fulfill their needs, or the needs of others if they are supporting a family," said Lt. Col. Bilbeisi in his study.

Sexual abuse takes place mostly in overpopulated areas, where the number of family members is large, with little room in the house, forcing the children to play in the street and "leaving them an easy prey", according to another study conducted by sociologist Sabri Rubeihat.

Ms. Khader said that children could be helped by establishing a court specialised in children's affairs. This court, she said, would base its decision on the child's rights law, currently drafted by the Ministry of Social Development.

Another idea, proposed by deputy Toujan Faisal, was the establishing a children's rights committee with an authority to file complaints on behalf of children.

During the trial of Haitham's father, Zuhra and her five children, the youngest of whom is seven months old, lived in one room. Now Zuhra is working as a domestic help. She survives on JD 35 from the Ministry of Social Development and some in-kind help, said the social worker.

Netanyahu defies criticism

(Continued from page 1)

tions in Israel? The Arab World doesn't understand that there were elections in Israel?...and why not develop communities here?"

Mr. Netanyahu, who opposes creation of a Palestinian state, has approved building thousands of new homes in the settlements.

Mr. Arafat blasted Mr. Netanyahu's policies in comments in Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem in the West Bank.

"Netanyahu has to go back and read agreements concerning the settlements. It was agreed no new single settlement would be added, no expansion of existing settlements," Mr. Arafat said.

Israel and the Palestinians also traded barbs over their slow-moving talks on the long overdue Israeli troop redeployment from Hebron.

"We are warning the Israeli government... We are holding it fully responsible for the delay," Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdaina told Reuters.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday Israel remained committed to an agreement with the Palestinian authorities over Hebron and he believed agreement would be reached soon.

Mr. Levy, on a two-day official visit to the Norwegian capital, said two points continued to block an accord on troop redeployment in Hebron.

"Security is at the centre of these issues," Mr. Levy said after talks with his Norwegian counterpart Bjørn Tore Godal. "I believe these two issues can be resolved in a meeting between the prime minister and chairman Arafat. If there is willingness on both sides there should be no difficulty and I can assure you there is willingness on the Israeli side."

"We have the intention of implementing the agreement on Hebron. Some very important issues, concerning security, are included in the original agreement and they are vital to us," Mr. Levy told reporters.

"Dragging on this issue does not serve any purpose. A vacuum created in this way is not part of the agreement, you don't advance in a vacuum. Therefore I hope these few issues can be resolved quickly and we will be able to move on in the process."

Mr. Godal said Norway, encouraged by signs that Israel and the Palestinians were nearing a deal, would leave its observer force in place in Hebron.

Norway has around 40 monitors in the sensitive area, the only international force there, and has previously said it would not renew the mandate for them if a deal is not struck soon.

"We have stated many times that we cannot stay there for eternity. But as long as there is real development in the negotiations we are not the ones to make major difficulties," Mr. Godal said.

State-run Syrian newspapers on Tuesday called on the United States to use its leverage with Israel to stop the construction of new Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

The call came a day after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Israeli plans for more settlements would pose a serious threat to the Middle East peace process.

"It is frightful and will be extremely harmful," Mr. Mubarak said.

"I tell them the danger will be to the entire peace process."

The 22-member Arab League also has issued a strong statement on Mr. Netanyahu's settlement policy.

An aide to Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon announced last Friday that the Jewish state plans to build three new settlements on the Golan Heights. They would include a total of 900 homes.

The prime minister's office on Sunday denied it.

There was confusion about the reports, however, because Israel in the past has defined some of its settlement projects as "suburbs" or "extensions" of existing settlements — which the Netanyahu government policy guidelines allow.

The English-language Syria Times urged U.S. intervention. "A firm and open response from the United States, showing that the Clinton administration is determined to keep the peace talks on track, is urgently needed," the paper said in an editorial.

Quarter of world's mammals face oblivion



Some of the 911 critically endangered animal species on the new Red List

Nicholas Schoon

A QUARTER of the world's mammal species are threatened with extinction, according to an exhaustive analysis of the state of the planet's animal life.

The latest Red List from the IUCN, the World Conservation Union, says 911 animal species are critically endangered — meaning they are in real danger of extinction within a few years. They range from mammals like the Siberian tiger to tiny insects

and fish.

The total number of recorded extinctions among both plants and animals over the past 400 years is put at 1,265 species. But scientists agree many more were wiped out by humanity before they were even discovered and described. The prime causes of the extinctions are destruction of natural habitats to create farmland and provided timber, hunting, collection for the pet trade and pollution.

In its 1994 Red List the

IUCN, an international grouping of voluntary and government conservation bodies, judged 18 per cent of mammal species to be threatened — their population had fallen sharply and there was at least some danger of extinction. That was based on incomplete information. Since then the mammals have joined the more numerous birds to become the only two classes of animal for which full assessments of conservation status has been done.

For birds, the threatened proportion is put at 11 per cent.

"We've now got a much fuller, more objective list," said Georgina Mace of the Institute of Zoology in London, who helped produce the new list. "The most significant finding is that 25 per cent of mammals are threatened."

But she judged freshwater species of fish, reptile and amphibian around the world to be most endangered.

The Red List divides

threatened species into three categories — critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable — based on population decline, scarcity and distribution. For mammals the respective numbers are 169 species, 315 and 612, and the percentages are 4, 7 and 14.

The number of individual animals left in the wild is a few hundred or, at most, a few thousand. The vaquita, a porpoise found in Mexico's Gulf of California, is down to just 96 individuals. In

Brazil there is just one male Spix's macaw left in the wild — about 30 are in captivity. Later this year the Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre, which did much of the work on the Red List, will produce a list of threatened plants. Published with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, it will show that 33,730 higher plant species, 13 per cent of all that are known, are threatened.

The Independent

Rome studies return of ancient obelisk to Ethiopia

ROME (R) — One of Ethiopia's most treasured artefacts, an ancient obelisk from Axum, has stood in Rome for 60 years.

Now, what has become an 80-foot thorn in the side of Italy's relations with its former colony may be about to go back.

Uprooted by occupying troops of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and shipped to Italy as a war trophy in 1937, the monolith has languished in the shadows of such archaeological gems as the Colosseum and the ancient Roman forum.

"It clearly doesn't belong here," said Grunt Abay Teshome, counsellor at the Ethiopian embassy in Rome.

"The way it was brought here dehumanises Ethiopia. It was looted from its sacred place and it has to be given back."

Mr. Grunt is optimistic, more than ever before, that this will happen — buoyed by a decision by Italy's foreign ministry to set up a committee to study how the obelisk could be returned.

"Maybe we'll see something in 1997," he said.

Pino Serri, an Italian deputy foreign minister, said the government would try to make good on two bilateral treaties, one signed in 1947 and the other in 1958, to return the obelisk to Ethiopia which for various reasons were never

honoured. "We have to close this question. Treaties have to be respected," said Mr. Serri, who visited Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa last month to discuss the fate of the obelisk.

Covered with relief carvings and believed to be nearly 2,000 years old, it once stood in the historic city of Axum in northern Ethiopia.

It is the second tallest of many obelisks built in ancient Axum which academics say are the most important examples of stonemasonry and engineering south of Egypt.

Mr. Serri said the committee would begin work soon and was expected to take three to four months to prepare a report

on the feasibility of returning the obelisk to Axum.

"There are two schools of thought: one is that they brought it here so it has to be possible to bring it back."

"The other is that after 60 years in a different climate, with all the pollution, it could just break into pieces if we tried to move it," Mr. Serri said.

Axum, now a popular tourist destination, was the capital of an empire which controlled trade between the Red Sea and the upper Nile. It enjoyed particular prosperity and expansion in the second to ninth centuries. In the fourth century, the civilisation embraced Christianity.

"The Axum civilisation is the source of our culture and the obelisk is a symbol of this," said Mr. Grum, who passes the monument every morning on his way to work. "It annoys me that there is nothing written on the obelisk. All other monuments in Rome have a plaque describing the historic importance. There is nothing that shows its significance as a work of art of Ethiopia," he said.

Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1935. When Addis Ababa fell a year later, Ethiopia formed part of Italian east Africa with Eritrea and Italian Somaliland until its liberation by the World War II allies in 1941.

Mussolini had the obelisk erected on Oct. 28, 1937, the 15th anniversary of his march on Rome, in front of the building which was to have housed his ministry for an Italian Africa.

The building is now the headquarters of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Mr. Grum said the high unlover of Italian governments, 54 since the end of the war, had contributed to the fact that the obelisk had not yet been returned.

"A new foreign minister would come in, study the issue and just when he was ready to sign, the government would change."

Syria seeks more foreign private investment

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria is looking for more local and foreign private investment after the special law giving up to nine years' tax-free operations attracted \$8.6 billion of investment over the past five years, a senior official said.

Mohammad Saraqbi, director of the Investment Bureau, told Reuters in an interview that the response to law number 10, issued in May 1991, was "very good and we look for more private investment by foreigners and Arabs in addition to local businessmen and Syrian expatriates."

He said 1,457 projects worth 363.3 billion Syrian pounds (\$8.6 billion) had been approved since the law was issued. The projects belong to investors of 35 nationalities of which 24 were non-Arab.

"Syria enjoys political stability, has big human and natural resources at cheap prices and has an excellent geographical location in the middle of three continents — which make a good climate for investment," Mr. Saraqbi said.

Syria's investment law was the only one in the region which did not require a local partner in projects, he said.

Law number 10 gives investors tax-free income for between five and nine years, allows them to import all their needs without customs duties, and imposes no fees or taxes when they buy land or other property for their projects, Mr. Saraqbi said.

The law also exempts investors from currency laws and regulations, allowing them to remit their profits in hard currency, and to transfer their capital if they decide to cancel their project within six months.

Both capital and profits can be transferred after five years, which means a project could enjoy a full tax-free operation.

Mr. Saraqbi said difficulties initially faced by investors in ensuring enough electricity supplies were overcome with the investment of over \$2.0 billion to increase electricity generation.

Economic analysts say Syria, which for years had a socialist, fully state-controlled economy, was persisting with a plan of economic reform which it started over five years ago.

The plan eased laws on dealings in hard currency and gives the private sector a greater role, allowing it to

engage in industries and businesses which were previously restricted to government control.

The private sector has been allowed to trade in commodities such as sugar, rice and tea and to engage in industries such as the production of cement, textiles and sugar electricity generation and oil exploration and refining, they said.

Under a decree issued by the economy minister in September, Syrians are now allowed to open accounts in hard currency without being asked about the source of the money.

The central bank also adjusted the pound, fixed for years at 42 pounds to a dollar, to a rate of 43.5. The black market rate ranges between 49 and 51 pounds. There are two other rates

for the pound — an official rate of 11.2 pounds to a dollar, and the rate of 23 pounds to a dollar used for customs duties.

The government is trying to unify the pound's rates and investors want the rate to be freed to reflect real market valuation.

Economic sources say that investors are still seeking the abolition of law number 24 which imposes harsh penalties on hard currency dealers, although the new currency regulations had automatically cancelled some of its articles.

Investors also want a stock market to be established and economists say a law had been prepared and was still awaiting a political decision.

China main factor as U.S. trade deficit widens

WASHINGTON (AFP) — China and Japan again headed the list of U.S. trade partners pushing up the U.S. trade deficit as it widened in September to \$11.3 billion, the U.S. government has said.

Data from the U.S. Commerce Department showed China eclipsing Japan as the main culprit in the growing U.S. trade deficit.

The overall goods and services trade deficit, which is seasonally adjusted, was well above the consensus forecast of Wall Street economists of \$9.6 billion.

The trade deficit in August was revised to \$10.3 billion, down from an initial estimate of \$10.8 billion.

For the first eight months

of the year, the trade deficit totalled \$85.5 billion, against \$85.7 billion in the first eight months of 1995.

For the first time on record, the third quarter deficit with China of \$13.3 billion exceeded the quarterly deficit with Japan of \$11.9 billion, the Commerce Department said.

The monthly deficit with China continued to outpace the gap with Japan. In September, the United States recorded a record trade deficit with China of \$4.732 billion, up from \$3.625 billion a year earlier and \$4.713 billion in August.

The trade gap with Japan was \$3.79 billion in September, down from \$4.37 billion a year earlier and \$3.80 billion in August.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to handle an obligation to a close friend today before you can pioneer into new interests which could be quite successful. Act wisely for later this evening you can consult with fellow associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A problematic affair which concerns an influential person today can take time for planning a new campaign of action to make your career activities more prosperous and successful in the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) New contacts could be helpful to you today, however, it is necessary to first handle your career activities in a more intelligent manner. Later this evening will be good for seeking out close friends for pursuing some fun activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your worldly status today while planning recreations for the days ahead. Confer with an intelligent expert who has the answers to career-oriented which you have proposed concerning a new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Carry through with advanced courses of activity today and don't permit a family difficulty to interfere with the pleasures which your loved ones have devised. Later this evening you can have a romantic time with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find a better system today for keeping promises you have made to others, that you can maintain your reputation. Your mate can be cooperative later this evening concerning some family situation, so sit down and discuss it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A vital new interest can help you today to get ahead faster at this time, so make this opportunity count. Handle it in a fine manner so that you can gain the success and prestige which has eluded you for some time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Forget other things today and keep rooted to important career activities you have to do to get noticed by those in authority. Keep promises you have made later this evening to your loved ones and you can gain their respect.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take some time away from regular tasks today and enjoy recreational activities which can relieve tensions. Later this evening will be fun for your loved ones if you partake of recreational activities which are enjoyable.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Even if you're busy occupied in the business world today, keep your mind on home affairs as well, thereby you can harmony which exist in your residence. Later this evening make the effort to seek out close friends for some fun activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to do things the way you like today if you are to be productive, so keep your mind focused upon any career activities. Be happy with loved ones later this evening and do something special for them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to get rid of some concern today, so get busy with practical affairs and everything works out well for you. Later this evening make this time special for your loved ones and take them to some familiar places.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

ILO: Slow growth is key unemployment culprit

GENEVA (AFP) — Fast economic growth is the key to job creation, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) says in a new report which pits the job spinning achievements of Asian Tiger economies against the precariousities of a billion unemployed worldwide.

"It could be said that it is only the rapidly growing economies of East and South East Asia that are solidly on the path to full employment," says the report, entitled "World Employment 1996/1997."

Most other developing nations, including India, face deteriorating employment conditions mainly as a result of the debt crisis overhang of the early 1980s, while industrialised economies are bogged down by slow growth.

The report pushes labour market rigidities and technology down the list of reasons for unemployment.

"The organisation takes issue with the view that labour market rigidities have been the major cause of unemployment and that great labour market flexibility is the solution," the report indicates.

It says such rigidities have not increased over the period of rising unemployment. "Nor, according to the ILO, is technology to blame for job losses."

The study cites data showing that total working hours in Canada, Japan and the U.S. rose sharply over the last three decades in spite of the high levels of technological innovation in those countries.

Globalisation too, is not the destroyer of jobs it is made out to be in the developed world, the ILO says.

"On the contrary, globalisation increases opportunities and incentives to productivity and trade and can provide the stimulus to growth necessary to attaining full employment," the labour organisation adds.

The real culprits, along with sluggish growth says the ILO, are wage inflation, and the exclusion of the long-term unemployed from the labour market, which erodes the influence of the jobs on wage negotiations.

Unemployment in Europe has mushroomed to an average of nearly 12 per cent currently from around two per cent during the

1960s.

Though figures in the U.S. have not budged much from their 1960s average, wage inequality has widened, Japan continues to have the lowest jobless rate in the rich country category, though even there the numbers have crept up.

Among developing countries, employment in South Asia barely increased between 1975 and 1992 while Chile and Jamaica were the only countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to register real job growth between 1986 and 1993.

The situation in sub-Saharan Africa is grim says the ILO, pointing out that just over half the population lives in territory which is unsafe or subject to severe macroeconomic upheaval.

Eastern Europe faces massive unemployment, particularly among youngsters who make up 30 per cent of the jobless.

In contrast, employment in the booming economies of East and South East Asia, with the exception of Indonesia, grew three per cent per annum between 1986 and 1993, well above the rate of increase in the

labour force.

The ILO insists that full employment — which it calls the absence of involuntary unemployment — be a primary policy objective, saying the notion of a "jobless recovery" is unfounded and that if anything, the link between GDP growth and job creation has intensified.

"There is no evidence that there is... a dearth of useful work such that full employment will no longer be unattainable," the report notes.

Its solution for industrialised countries is a combination of quicker economic growth rates, anti-inflation mechanisms and improved labour-market policies.

Industrialising countries, following the examples of East and South East Asia, need to shift to outward-looking strategies and emphasise the strengthening of their international competitiveness.

In eastern Europe, the ILO is calling for a reexamination of the pace of reforms and adoption of "socially and politically sustainable strategies."

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| US Dollar | 1.0000 | 1.5070 | 0.5951 | 1.2705 | 111.45 | 1.3394 | 1505.00 | 1.6005 | 5.1125 |
| DE Mark | 0.6636 | 1.0000 | 0.3944 | 0.8428 | 73.95 | 0.8882 | 998.01 | 1.1215 | 3.3918 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6805 | 2.5315 | 1.0000 | 2.1258 | 167.30 | 2.2500 | 2529.15 | 2.8409 | 8.5016 |
| CH Franc | 0.7971 | 1.1637 | 0.4679 | 1.0000 | 87.72 | 1.0536 | 1184.11 | 1.3235 | 4.0224 |
| JP Yen | 0.0090 | 1.3510 | 0.5331 | 1.1300 | 1.0000 | 1.2007 | 13.49 | 181.55 | 4.5331 |
| CAD Dollar | 0.7466 | 1.1161 | 0.4455 | 0.9436 | 1.20 | 1.0000 | 1125.68 | 1.2531 | 3.7808 |
| IT Lira | 0.0007 | 1.0008 | 0.3950 | 0.0844 | 1351.90 | 0.8808 | 1.0000 | 11.23 | 3.3053 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5915 | 0.8512 | 0.3517 | 0.7514 | 85.90 | 0.7921 | 890.01 | 1.0000 | 3.0234 |
| FR Franc | 0.1058 | 0.2947 | 0.1163 | 0.2481 | 21.78 | 0.2610 | 33.05 | 33.0500 | 1.0000 |

| Oil | Last | Previous |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Brent | 23.75 | 23.70 |
| WTI | 23.10 | 23.05 |
| Bony | 23.75 | 23.70 |
| Dubai | 21.25 | 21.20 |
| UL Gas | 217.00 | 214.00 |

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4021 | 0.1587 | 0.3359 | 28.7442 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.4105 | 0.1620 | 0.3486 | 30.3721 |
| KW Dinar | 0.3557 | 0.5067 | 0.1986 | 0.4248 | 37.4392 |
| BH Dinar | 0.0008 | 0.0012 | 0.0004 | 0.0008 | 0.0008 |
| CY Pound | 2.1773 | 3.2612 | 1.2840 | 2.7663 | 242.68 |

| Metal | Bid | Offer |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Gold (oz) | 376.35 | 376.45 |
| Silver (oz) | 4.85 | 4.87 |
| Platinum (oz) | 342.55 | 343.55 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1925 | 1929 |
| CU (3 Months) | 2193 | 2198 |
| ZINC (3 Months) | 1028 | 1032 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 708 | 711 |
| Ni (3 Months) | 6870 | 6910 |

| Period | -1 | -3 | -6 | -9 | -12 |
|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Currency | Month | Months | Months | Months | Year |
| USD | 5.25 | 5.38 | 5.44 | 5.48 | 5.50 |
| GBP | 6.00 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.75 | 6.81 |
| JPY | 0.37 | 0.36 | 0.41 | 0.45 | 0.50 |
| DEM | 3.00 | 3.06 | 3.12 | 3.15 | 3.18 |
| FRF | 3.30 | 3.37 | 3.43 | 3.48 | 3.54 |
| CHF | 1.85 | 1.86 | 1.87 | 1.88 | 1.89 |
| ITL | 7.13 | 6.90 | 6.72 | 6.54 | 6.43 |

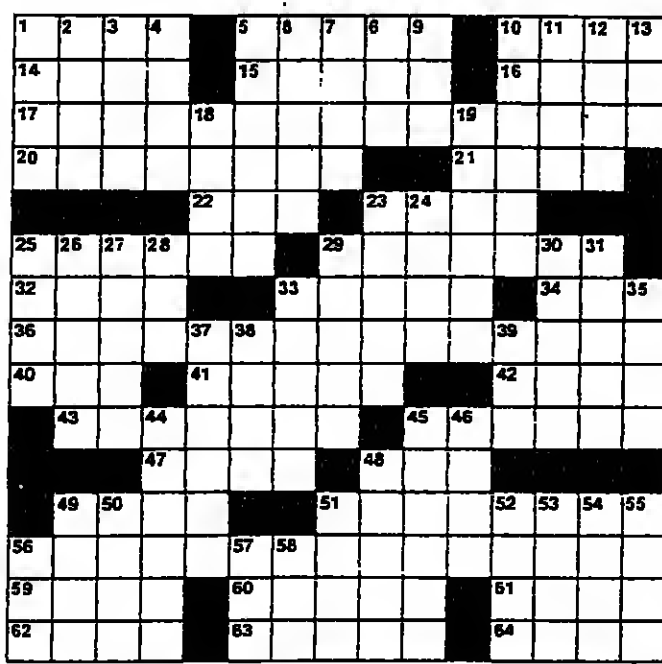
| Bourse | Index | Value | Change | % Change | High | Low | Pr Ch |
|-----------|------------|----------|--------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| New York | DOW JONES | 6471.78 | 53.29 | 0.83 | 6471.78 | 6418.47 | 6418.47 |
| New York | S&P 500 | 748.73 | 5.88 | 0.81 | 748.73 | 742.75 | 742.75 |
| London | FTSE 100 | 4018.7 | 64.9 | 1.64 | 4018.7 | 3959 | 3953.8 |
| Tokyo | NIKKEI 225 | 21216.11 | 72.77 | 0.34 | 21216.11 | 21021.5 | 21021.5 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 2255.47 | 21.9 | 0.98 | 2255.47 | 2222.05 | 2233.57 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 2783.59 | -5.65 | -0.21 | 2784.88 | 2758.11 | 2772.34 |

| Commodity | Last | Delivery |
|--------------|--------|----------|
| Coffee (c/s) | 115.83 | Spot |
| Cocoa (s/s) | 1294 | Spot |
| Sugar (s/s) | 308.5 | Spot |
| Wheat (s/s) | 127 | Spot |
| Soy (c/s) | 22.38 | Spot |
| Tea (s/s) | 118 | Spot |
| Barley (s/s) | 2.24 | Spot |
| Rice (s/s) | 470 | Spot |

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1985 | 1.1944 |
| DE Mark | 0.468 | 0.4713 |
| CH Franc | 0.5587 | 0.5593 |
| FR Franc | 0.1383 | 0.136 |
| JP Yen | 0.8343 | 0.8375 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4183 | 0.4204 |
| IT Lira | 0.4099 | 0.4722 |

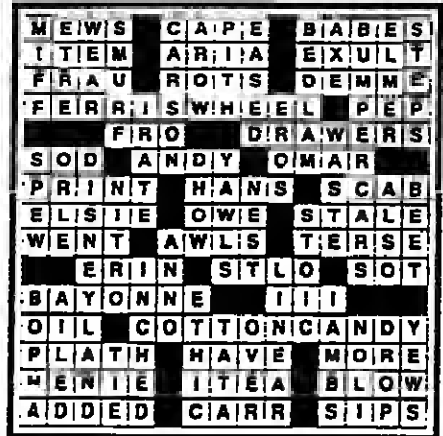
THE Daily Crossword by Hugh M. Cleveland

- ACROSS**
- Mountain lake
 - Philippine people
 - Vendetta
 - Sword
 - Ancient Greek marketplace
 - Unusual
 - Vessels
 - Falsely blamed
 - Stratagem
 - School of seals
 - Double reed
 - Enrout
 - Singer
 - Rosemary
 - Vicinity
 - Hut
 - Mauna —
 - Vessels
 - Pourboire
 - Vandyke
 - Muscle condition
 - Orate
 - Exact
 - Satisfaction
 - Deserve
 - Expert
 - Prehistoric ax
 - Surpassed
 - Vessels
 - Monterey money
 - Made a mistake
 - Hostilities
 - Greek war god
 - Corpulent
 - Blackjack



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- DOWN**
- Sermon topic, often
 - Mimic
 - Singer McEntire
 - Lack
 - Symbolic figure
 - Eyed
 - Cross
 - Gold in Grenada
 - Weaken
 - Woman
 - Cornstalk items
 - Impulse
 - Poor grade
 - In one's — (drunk)
 - Actress Shields
 - Film's Charlie Chan
 - Spring brew
 - Tobacco kiln
 - Plait
 - AZ city
 - Literary monogram
 - Amulet
 - Singer — John
 - Immature
 - Discolor
 - Writer James —
 - Remove by erosion
 - Come close
 - Map abbr.
 - Stringed instruments
 - Give consent
 - Change direction
 - Wheel holders
 - Actress with one name
 - Moderate
 - Ireland
 - Heroic
 - 007 foe
 - Long periods
 - Recipe amount
 - Old gov. org.
 - Early car
 - Kingly power symbol



JORDAN TIMES
TEL :
684311-699634

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Busin

Arab b

ABRIT (R) — Arab banks are strengthening their capital to play a major role in the foreign funds flow. Arab economies are growing and Arab banking office is expanding.

Abou Said, an Arab Bank official, told Reuters that Arab banks are strengthening their capital to play a major role in the foreign funds flow. Arab economies are growing and Arab banking office is expanding.

Bu

Abou Said, an Arab Bank official, told Reuters that Arab banks are strengthening their capital to play a major role in the foreign funds flow. Arab economies are growing and Arab banking office is expanding.

Ensur see

civil serv

economic

JORDAN SUFFERS from the blighted civil service, which is the main obstacle to the economic growth of the country, according to a report by the Jordanian government. The report says that the civil service is the main obstacle to the economic growth of the country, and that the government is taking steps to reform it.

Jordanian p

Romania

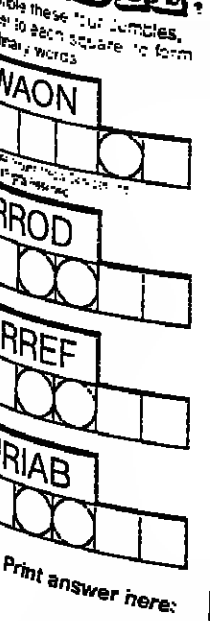
African

JORDAN'S 50 factories are registered to a total of 10 million in the Jordanian Export Promotion Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Jordanian government. The corporation is providing jobs to Jordanians and is helping to develop the Jordanian economy.

THE BETTER HAL



JUMBLE



Print answer here:

Arab banks told to strengthen capital base

BEIRUT (R) — Arab banks must strengthen their capital base to play a major role on world markets and control the foreign funds flowing into Arab economies, a senior Arab banking official said.

Hatem Abou Said of Italy-based Arab Banking Corporation told Reuters the low capitalisation of Arab banks and stiff international regulations were the main obstacles preventing Arab banks from playing a competitive international role.

"The trend is now for banks to merge, to create large capital bases, to reduce costs and then become global independent services banks with an ability to control markets, put strategies and choose partners," Mr. Abou Said said at an Arab banking conference in Beirut.

The role of Arab banks should go beyond taking the local risk in Arab countries for foreign corporates. "It is important to get

involved in turnkey banking assistance," he added.

"Arab banks must start reaching international customers, issuing bonds, performing the role of export trade agencies and finally financing the projects," he added.

Direct annual foreign investments into Arab states rose to \$1.8 billion in 1994 from \$1.7 billion in 1993, but both figures were less than one per cent of private international investments, a report to the conference by the Union of Arab Banks said.

By strengthening their international rating, Arab banks would be able to help corporations undertaking huge projects in the Arab World, by taking the local risks back to the industrialised countries.

However, they would only be able to merge and play a world role when Arab governments opened their borders to allow a free circulation of capital, goods and personnel, Mr. Abou

Said said.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) provides for such harmonisation but we need rapid implementation or we will remain behind. We cannot do nothing and then blame international money markets for imposing their conditions on us," he said.

Total shareholders' equity of Arab banks rose 4.3 per cent in 1995 to \$85.4 billion and total assets rose 14.2 per cent to \$496 billion, the Union of Arab Banks report said.

Many family-owned Arab institutions have been reluctant to merge for "egoist reasons" and Arab monetary authorities must impose strict regulations on banks to increase their capital, either directly or by mergers, Mr. Abou Said said.

International banks would remain hugely involved in the Arab World in the next few years as Arab countries carry out big long-term projects as part of their economic reform, he said.

Soaring property costs a bane for foreign investors in Asia

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Soaring property costs have eroded the benefits of cheap labour in developing Asian countries and left some banks dangerously reliant on real-estate lending, according to a regional business consultancy.

"As soon as foreign direct investors start showing real interest in a country, rents and prices for any property they might want to use start going through the roof," the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. (PERC) said.

"The pattern has happened in China, Vietnam, India and, most recently, in the Philippines. At some point in the future, it will probably happen in Burma, Cambodia and North Korea," said the report.

It added that whatever the political system, Asian businessmen and officials seem to fall back on real estate as a

"quick source of cash," often resulting in two markets existing side by side — one for locals, another for foreigners.

"High property rents and prices alone are enough to erode many of the competitive advantages some of Asia's developing countries hope to secure through their relatively low labour costs," the report said.

"Real value for the dollar does not exist. The pace of property development in emerging economies has been too slow to satisfy the growth in demand from international companies," it added.

PERC warned that many banks in Asia had grown "fat and lazy" after relying too much on property-related businesses, and some institutions had become "over-exposed and vulnerable to sharp corrections in the market." A crunch period in

Thailand could be imminent, it warned.

PERC also said a real-estate boom can inhibit growth in other economic sectors, but "all indications are that this Asian love affair with property will continue, if not intensify."

"The urban population of East Asian developing countries will jump to more than 1.2 billion in the next 25 years from 500 million at present, necessitating huge additional expenditure on housing," it said.

"Meeting such housing needs could emerge as one of the region's most serious policy challenges," it added.

Regional property experts say rents and property prices have escalated most sharply in emerging economies in Asia where supply of office and factory space, as well as expatriate housing, has not kept up with explosive demand.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Ensour sees the bloated civil service as main economic imbalance

JORDAN SUFFERS from many economic imbalances but the bloated civil service is the most important that needs to be tackled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour said in an interview. He pointed out that the Kingdom's resources and the size of the government do not correlate with the size of the population which largely depends on the government finances and resources.

Other imbalances according to Dr. Ensour are the high indebtedness which, he said, is considered the highest in the world in relation to the size of the population, and the intervention of the government in projects such as the petroleum refinery, tanning and leather and public transport. The deputy prime minister noted that economic imbalances and problems usually give rise to unemployment which cannot be resolved through "preaching and guidance."

He stressed that the solution to unemployment lies in creating productive projects that do not (financially) burden the state. Dr. Ensour emphasised the importance of having the people accept about 300,000 job opportunities which are shunned by Jordanians for "social reasons."

On a positive note, Dr. Ensour described Jordan as a "country of civil benefits" in offering free medical and educational in addition to social services to the "deprived classes." He also highlighted the status that the Kingdom enjoys in having a high level of education and a large number of graduates in addition to skills and experiences (Al Aswaq).

Jordanian paint reaches Romania and other African countries

JORDAN'S 50 factories producing paints throughout the Kingdom registered a total of JD25.5 million in local sales and JD7.5 million in exports last year, the director-general of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation told a seminar. He said Jordanian paint exports have penetrated new non-traditional markets such as Tanzania, Romania, Ethiopia and Sudan in addition to the markets of UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Qatar and Bahrain. According to Mohammed Halaqah, the corporation's director-general, the paint industry provides jobs to about 2,000 workers (Al Aswaq).

AFM chief leaves to attend UASE meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Wahib Shair, the director general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), Tuesday left for Morocco to attend the 16th annual meeting of the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges (UASE) which will be convened in Casablanca on Friday, Nov. 29, 1996.

The three-day meeting will discuss various issues related to the UASE's activities during 1996, and the recent developments witnessed by the UASE, in

addition to prospects and meetings scheduled for 1997.

The Union of Arab Stock Exchange, through its annual meetings and specialised conferences, aims at strengthening the ties and cooperation among its members. The union also aims at setting strategies that encourage coordination and integration, especially in fields related to the legislative, technical and administrative aspects of the Arab stock exchanges.

Ninety-thousand Turks in grandstand job contest

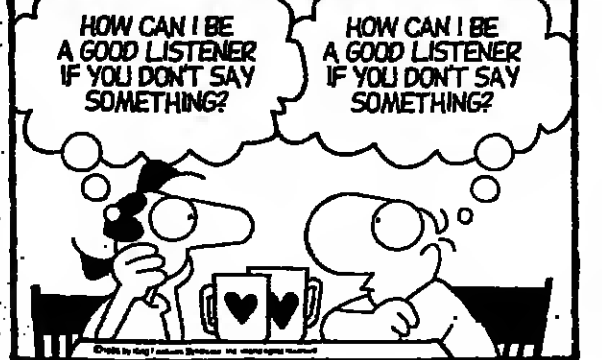
ANKARA (R) — Around 90,000 people have applied for just 2,500 unskilled jobs in Turkey's Social Security Institution. Disappointing these people and their families is most distressing. It was to avoid disappointing too many people that the applications were taken in Ankara, Mr. Celik said.

Mr. Celik blamed the high level of applications on widespread unemployment in Turkey. Unemployment in Turkey was officially 6.3 per cent in April, the latest figure available, but unofficially it is estimated to be about 15 per cent.

"If possible, I'm thinking of leaving not just Ankara, but the country, so as to avoid all the arguments," Mr. Celik said.

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|--|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 26/11/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF SHARES | NO. OF TRACES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE | |
| 252,000 | 205,000 | ARAB BANK | 13.6 | 1.22 | 14 | 600 | 148970 | 247.35 | 245.50 | 1.25+ | |
| 1,250 | 880 | MID-EAST INV. BK. | 68.0 | 0.00 | 23 | 1650 | 15215 | 1.03 | 1.05 | .02+ | |
| 5,250 | 4,250 | THE HOUSING BK. | 12.6 | 2.94 | 8 | 3250 | 15275 | 4.70 | 4.70 | | |
| 1,200 | 880 | JOR. GULF BANK | 5.8 | 7.22 | 16 | 34300 | 32262 | .93 | .97 | .04+ | |
| 4,180 | 3,300 | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 17.4 | 0.00 | 5 | 2005 | 15273 | 3.63 | 3.62 | .01- | |
| 3,930 | 3,400 | UNION BK. SAV. INV. | 9.0 | 0.00 | 5 | 39106 | 58659 | 1.52 | 1.50 | .02- | |
| 5,850 | 4,450 | ARAB BANKING CO. | 23.0 | 0.00 | 4 | 6050 | 25923 | 4.48 | 4.45 | .03- | |
| 1,590 | 1,000 | PHILADELPHIA INV. BK. | 9 | 0.00 | 7 | 3010 | 3870 | 1.30 | 1.30 | | |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDEX: 189.34 %CHG: +0.43 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,900 | 3,450 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 10.9 | 7.64 | 29 | 29657 | 46577 | 1.56 | 1.57 | .01+ | |
| 1,950 | 1,080 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | 9 | 0.00 | 46 | 21950 | 35632 | 1.16 | 1.15 | .05+ | |
| 1,260 | 580 | JORDAN INTL. TRAD. | 29.8 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 580 | .58 | .58 | | |
| 1,800 | 650 | MACH. REP. REPAIRING | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 170 | .72 | .68 | .04- | |
| 2,300 | 1,650 | MID. EAST HOTELS | 67.2 | 0.00 | 2 | 2250 | 3510 | 1.56 | 1.56 | | |
| 3,680 | 3,130 | ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC. | 14.6 | 5.42 | 26 | 26050 | 92868 | 3.51 | 3.69 | .18+ | |
| 1,270 | 960 | KARMA EDUCATION | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 1261 | 1.05 | 1.05 | | |
| 1,430 | 1,490 | UNIFIED CO. | 9.2 | 5.71 | 28 | 7150 | 12550 | 1.32 | 1.32 | | |
| 1,200 | 820 | UNION LAND DEV. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 85 | .85 | .85 | | |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDEX: 108.91 %CHG: +1.44 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3,770 | 3,060 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 18.9 | 3.03 | 15 | 9973 | 32756 | 3.25 | 3.30 | .05+ | |
| 3,550 | 2,710 | JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES | 32.7 | 0.00 | 6 | 2250 | 6905 | 3.00 | 3.04 | .04+ | |
| 1,950 | 1,780 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 17.4 | 3.48 | 5 | 3100 | 17703 | 5.71 | 5.75 | .08+ | |
| 10,550 | 8,720 | JOR. PETROL REFINERY | 9.3 | 8.68 | 4 | 210 | 1936 | 9.20 | 9.22 | .02+ | |
| 1,590 | 1,150 | WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES | 54.6 | 0.00 | 2 | 300 | 368 | 1.18 | 1.23 | .05+ | |
| 3,750 | 1,650 | INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR. | 67.5 | 0.00 | 2 | 800 | 1576 | 1.97 | 1.97 | | |
| 8,150 | 6,420 | JOR. WOODEN MILLS | 9.0 | 3.97 | 4 | 1470 | 10285 | 6.95 | 7.00 | .05+ | |
| 4,870 | 3,040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 17.1 | 6.41 | 14 | 6150 | 19162 | 3.07 | 3.12 | .05+ | |
| 6,450 | 5,580 | JOR. CERAMIC IND. | 4.07 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 1230 | 6.10 | 6.15 | .05+ | |
| 1,950 | 1,450 | JOR. PAPER CORP. | 8.40 | 7.50 | 6 | 1240 | 1979 | 1.58 | 1.60 | .02+ | |
| 7,900 | 3,100 | JOR. PAPER CORP. | 16.7 | 3.08 | 2 | 326 | 1060 | 3.25 | 3.25 | | |
| 2,250 | 1,380 | KAFIA INDUSTRIES | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 2400 | 3365 | 1.38 | 1.42 | .04+ | |
| 8,000 | 4,250 | QAR ALMANA ON INV. | 12.3 | 4.46 | 7 | 1280 | 5659 | 4.35 | 4.40 | .05+ | |
| 5,800 | 3,330 | ARAB ALUM. IND. | 8.1 | 9.23 | 3 | 1400 | 4550 | 3.18 | 3.25 | .07+ | |
| 1,960 | 450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 9 | 0.00 | 59 | 85767 | 51203 | .58 | .60 | .02+ | |
| 3,500 | 1,010 | ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD. | 7.8 | 9.01 | 7 | 1450 | 1660 | 1.12 | 1.15 | .03+ | |
| 1,090 | 540 | NATIONAL INDS. | 8.4 | 10.53 | 13 | 8750 | 4961 | .56 | .57 | .01+ | |
| 1,840 | 930 | INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM. | 8 | 0.00 | 28 | 20600 | 20577 | .96 | 1.01 | .05+ | |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDEX: 111.27 %CHG: +1.44 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDEX: 148.25 %CHG: +0.88 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 26/11/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 790 | 440 | CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE | 22.1 | 0.00 | 7 | 3150 | 1733 | .58 | .58 | .03- | |
| 800 | 410 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 13.9 | 0.00 | 8 | 10450 | 5434 | .52 | .52 | .01+ | |
| 950 | 440 | NATL. CONSUMER CENTERS | 9 | 0.00 | 14 | 15050 | 7686 | .51 | .52 | .01+ | |
| 930 | 700 | UNION INV. 501 | 67.9 | 0.00 | 26 | 52705 | 11147 | .70 | .71 | .01+ | |
| 1,110 | 370 | ARAB FIN. INVEST. | 9 | 0.00 | 5 | 3250 | 1300 | .38 | .40 | .02+ | |
| 950 | 690 | AL-DAMLIYAH 751 | 15.8 | 0.00 | 2 | 700 | 700 | .35 | .35 | .01- | |
| 640 | 340 | JOR. INDS. MATCH-VEHIC | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 2000 | 700 | .35 | .35 | .01- | |
| 1,760 | 1,300 | ARAB FOOD & MED. | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 1250 | 715 | .60 | .62 | .02+ | |
| 700 | 450 | ARAB INTL. INV. TRD. | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 5500 | 2585 | .45 | .47 | .02+ | |
| 1,000 | 520 | NATL. TEXTILE | 9 | 0.00 | 7 | 3900 | 2223 | .54 | .57 | .03+ | |
| 1,300 | 490 | NATL. PHIL. ENG. MACHIC | 9 | 0.00 | 30 | 61159 | 26268 | .42 | .43 | .01+ | |
| 1,080 | 720 | JORDAN STEEL | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 1084 | 790 | .72 | .72 | .01+ | |
| 1,330 | 1,020 | UNION TOBACCO 751 | 9 | 0.00 | 5 | 1079 | 881 | 1.04 | 1.07 | .03+ | |
| 840 | 370 | RAILY PHARM. 551 | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 1000 | 720 | .59 | .59 | | |
| 830 | 390 | INDS. ENG. | 25.3 | 0.00 | 15 | 5550 | 2686 | .39 | .41 | .02+ | |
| 1,430 | 760 | INDS. CERAMIC | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 195 | .76 | .78 | .02+ | |
| 900 | 600 | PEARL SAN. P. CORP. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 820 | .80 | .82 | .02+ | |
| 950 | 800 | ARAB INT. FOOD FACT. | 57.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 820 | .80 | .82 | .02+ | |
| 1,500 | 530 | MID-EAST COMPLEX | 8.0 | 0.00 | 35 | 1271600 | 864588 | .67 | .68 | .03+ | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDEX: 145.1450 %CHG: +0.88 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legend: 1: New 12 months high; 2: New 12 months low; 3: Stock dividend during the past 12 months; 4: Listed during the past 12 months; 5: P/E ratio 100 or more; 6: Negative P/E; 7: Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GWAON
ARROD
PERREF
LURIAB

Print answer here: _____

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FELON FEWER HICUP GENTLE
Answer: The kind of weather you get on Halloween - "FRIGHT-FULL"

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Jordan scores 40 as Bulls win; Magic, Nets lose

LOS ANGELES (R) — Michael Jordan scored 40 points and Scottie Pippen added 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter as the Chicago Bulls bounced back from their first loss of the season with an 88-84 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers Monday.

Jordan, who scored nine points in the fourth quarter, recorded his 14th career 40-point regular-season game.

Pippen grabbed 11 rebounds and Toni Kukoc contributed 13 points for Chicago, which lost in Utah on Saturday. The Bulls are a league-best 13-1.

Dennis Rodman grabbed 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who were playing the fourth game of a seven-game road trip.

Chicago was playing without starting center Luc Longley, who separated his left shoulder in a bizarre swimming accident Sunday. He was to undergo an examination on Tuesday to reveal the severity of the injury.

Stanley Roberts had 15 points and eight rebounds and Loy Vaught added 14 and 13 for the Clippers, who lost to Chicago at home for the seventh

straight time and fell to 3-19 in their last 22 meetings against the Bulls.

The crowd of 16,144 represented the Clippers' first sellout of the season, establishing a Clipper arena record for basketball.

The Bulls, who trailed by as many as 11 points in the second quarter, pulled within 51-45 at the half before tying the game at 64 late in the third quarter.

Chicago used a 17-4 run early in the fourth quarter, including eight points from Jordan and six from Pippen, to build an 81-70 lead.

The Clippers pulled within 85-81 with 1:40 left, but could not draw closer after committing a 10-second violation.

Jordan added seven rebounds and four blocked shots for Chicago, which won despite shooting 38 percent (29-of-76) from the field and getting outscored 30-22 in the paint.

In Orlando, Armon Gilliam had 24 points and 14 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks soaped a three-game road losing streak with a 100-88 victory over the Magic.

Glenn Robinson added 23 points and Vin Baker had 13 and 15 rebounds for Milwaukee. Sherman Douglas and rookie Ray Allen each added 12 points for the Bucks, who won for just the second time in seven games overall after a 5-1 start.



The Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman kicks up as he pulls down a rebound against the Los Angeles Clippers' Loy Vaught. The Bulls won 88-84 (Reuters photo)

Seikaly had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic, who fell to 4-3 at home after losing only four home games all of last season.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 27 points and 16 rebounds and Jeff Hornacek added 19 points as the Jazz routed the New Jersey Nets 108-92 for their seventh straight victory.

Antoine Carr added 14 points. Adam Keefe grabbed 12 rebounds and John Stockton handed out 13 assists as Utah (9-2) defeated New Jersey (2-7) for the fifth consecutive time.

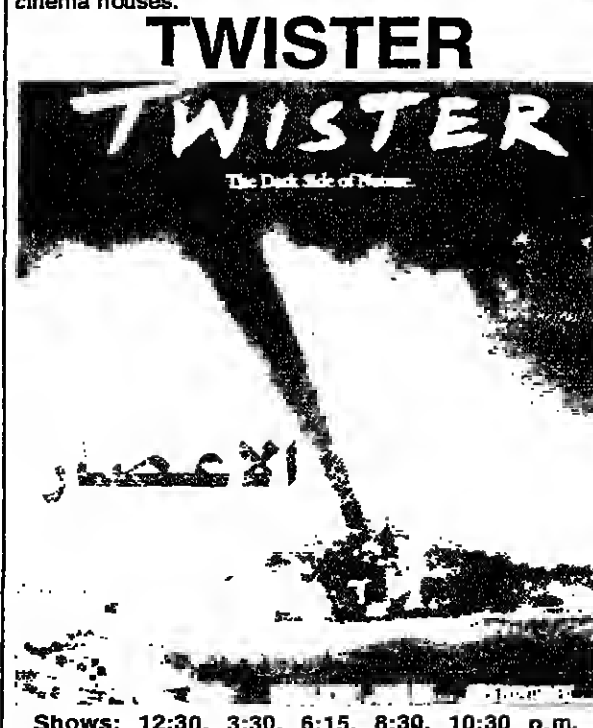
NBA RESULTS

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-------------|----|
| Milwaukee | 100 | Orlando | 88 |
| Washington | 105 | Minnesota | 98 |
| Utah | 108 | New Jersey | 92 |
| Chicago | 88 | LA Clippers | 84 |

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Proudly presents the new masterpiece of Steven Spielberg. The film was produced by Universal Company and distributed by Metro company. It is stronger than an earthquake. We advise weak-hearted people not to watch it. The film is shown simultaneously in Arab and foreign cinema houses.



Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

INVITATION TO TWO TENDERS

Mu'tah University invites specialized companies to submit bids for the following two tenders:

- Tender No. L21/96: Supplying the University Library with foreign books and publications.
- Tender No. L42/96: Supplying the University Library with foreign periodicals.

Interested eligible bidders inside and outside Jordan can obtain the bidding documents at Mu'tah University Liaison Office on Semir Rifai street - Jebel Amman, between the 3rd and the 4th Circles. Telephone 645295.

Bidders are requested to submit the following:

- A bid bond of JD 3000 for every tender.
- The price of each copy of the two tenders is J.D 25 (unrefundable).
- An original copy of the offer with two certified copies signed by the bidder.
- All copies should be enclosed in an envelope where it is written the name of the bidder and the number of the tender. This envelope should be placed in the Central Tender Committee box at the University in AL-Kerek.

Closing date for the delivery of offers is Monday, four o'clock, December 23, 1996.

All offers that do not fulfill the conditions and requirements of the tender will not be considered.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Arrows hire Muller

LEAFIELD, England (AFP) — Ambitious Formula One team Arrows announced Monday they have hired Formula 3000 champion Jorg Muller of Germany to be their official test driver. Arrows, owned by Tom Walkinshaw formerly at Benetton and Ligier, said that the 27-year-old German will begin testing the car this week at Estoril in Portugal. Arrows pulled off a major coup in September when they persuaded current Formula One champion Damon Hill to sign for them next season beating off a higher bid from Irish team Jordan-Peugeot.

Double keeps Porto on top

LISBON (AFP) — Defender Jose Barroso and Slovakian midfielder Zlatko Zahovic both grabbed a brace of goals to help Porto trounce sixth-from-bottom Maritimo 4-1 at home on Monday. The win kept Porto three points ahead of Benfica, who beat Farense 2-1 in the Portuguese first division.

Reggiana sack coach

ROME (AFP) — Reggiana, bottom of Italy's Serie A and without a win all season, have sacked Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu, his third dismissal in seven seasons in Italian football after spells with Pisa and Brescia.

Ilie signs for Galatasaray

ISTANBUL (R) — Romanian footballer Adrian Ilie has signed a three-and-a-half year contract to join compatriots George Hagi and Iulian Filipescu at Istanbul club

Galatasaray. Anatolian news agency said Monday. Under the deal the Turkish club will pay Ilie's old club, Steaua Bucharest, a \$2.8 million transfer fee, while the player will receive a further \$800,000. "I came here to play football and win the championship with my friends. Together with Hagi and Filipescu we can achieve every kind of success," Ilie told reporters. Galatasaray are currently top of the Turkish League but were knocked out of the second round of the European Cup Winners' Cup by Paris Saint-Germain.

Franz to coach Europe side

MARSEILLE (R) — Franz Beckenbauer will be back on the Marseille bench in December 1997 as coach of a Europe side against the rest of the world at the draw for the 1998 World Cup finals. Beckenbauer, who coached Marseille in the 1991/92 season, has accepted an invitation from the head of the World Cup Organising Committee, Michel Platini, to take charge of the Europe team. He led Germany to World Cup triumphs both as captain and coach. The rest of the world will be coached by Brazil's victorious 1994 World Cup trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira. The match will be played at Marseille's Velodrome, one of the 1998 World Cup venues, on December 4 next year.

Juventus beat River Plate

TOKYO (AFP) — Alessandro Del Piero scored the only goal as Juventus of Italy beat River Plate of Argentina 1-0 to win the Inter-Continental Cup Tuesday. The 22-year-old forward struck in the 81st minute as the European champions won the World Club Championship for the second time.

Steelers beat Dolphins in Miami

MIAMI (R) — Mike Tomczak's 20-yard touchdown pass to Ernie Mills with 2:10 remaining lifted the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 24-17 victory over the Miami Dolphins Monday.

With just over six minutes remaining in regulation Tomczak moved the Steelers 45 yards in eight plays. After backup quarterback

Kordell Stewart kept the drive alive with a key run for a first down, Tomczak threw a bullet to Mills, who caught his first touchdown pass of the season.

"This is a big victory," Tomczak said.

"We came together as a group tonight and hopefully set the time for the balance of the season."

After Mills' touchdown, Dan Marino drove Miami down to the Pittsburgh 7-yard line but Scott Miller couldn't haul in Marino's pass in the end zone on 4th and 1.

"Dan Marino is a great

football player on a very good football team," Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher said. "Nothing is safe when he has the football at the end of a game in a crucial situation."

The Steelers improved to 10-1 on Monday nights under Cowher. The only setback came at Miami, in 1995.

Tomczak completed 16 of 29 passes for 252 yards as Pittsburgh (9-3) won for the fourth time in its last five games. Jerome Bettis carried 27 times for 119 yards, recording his ninth 100-yard game of the season.

Miami (6-6) has lost four of its last six games and is in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1993. The Dolphins are tied with Indianapolis for third place in the AFC East, two games behind

new England and three in back of Buffalo.

"This is a frustrating loss," said Miami coach Jimmy Johnson. "I felt like, and the players felt like, we could win this ballgame. We had plenty of opportunities to win the ballgame but we didn't make the plays when we needed to. We got too many penalties and the opponent only had one penalty. You cannot expect to win games that way."

"It's a very difficult loss because I felt we should have won," Marino said. "We had some penalties that hurt us but you have to overcome them."

Marino, who was 22-of-37 for 254 yards, tossed a two-yard pass to O.J. McDuffie to cap a 15-play, 76-yard drive and give the Dolphins a 7-0 lead with 5:15 left in the first quarter.

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A MATTER OF TECHNIQUE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠A 10 9 8

♥A 7 3

♦K 8 6 5 4

♣K

WEST: ♠8 3

♥J 10 5 4

♦9 7

♣10 9 8 6

EAST: ♠K 2

♥9 5

♦A Q J 10

♣A Q J 10

SOUTH: ♠Q 7 6 4

♥Q 6 2

♦A Q J 10

♣A

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass

3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♥ Pass 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

Timing is an essential element of good technique. Declarer won a crucial trick at the right time to land a game contract.

North's jump raise to three spades was forcing in the partnership methods. East was not prepared to enter the auction at this vulnerability with a porous seven-card suit and no singleton, and South, with a dead minimum, had

no interest beyond four spades.

West's lead of the ten of clubs got the defense off to a good start — declarer was in danger of losing a trick in each black suit and two in hearts. So declarer allowed the king of clubs with the ace and shifted to the nine of hearts. If the king of spades were with West, the contract was unmakeable. But if East held the monarch, a second heart through the queen would be South's ruin.

There was just one way to counter that lie of the cards, and that was to play East for precisely two hearts. So declarer allowed East's nine of hearts to win the first trick, put up the queen on the continuation, then captured West's king with the ace of hearts. Declarer came to hand with a diamond and ran the queen of spades to East's king.

Declarer's care paid off. East did not have another heart. The diamond return caused a moment of anxiety, but when West followed all was well. Declarer won the diamond in hand, drew the outstanding trumps and ran the diamonds, vulnerability with a porous seven-card suit and no singleton, and South, with a dead minimum, had

making four odd.

INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER

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- semi, annual reimbursement.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and collect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Mu'tah University located on Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Thursday beginning November 26, 1996 to December 14, 1996.

4. Bidders may offer more updated versions of the specific components and equipment called for.

5. Prices are to be quoted on the basis CIF Mu'tah University excluding custom duties and other official taxes And charges, but including 12 month on site warranty and installation.

6. Specifications should be according to specifications stated in the project document which will be handed to the bidders.

7. The offer will be evaluated technically and financially according to our specification and requirement. Contract will be awarded to the best evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contract to be signed.

8. A complete set of the Bidding Document may be obtained from above reference office upon submission of a written application and a payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of Mu'tah University. The price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent in Jordanian Dinars or US\$ currency of the following amounts:

- * For delivery to personal callers \$ 400,000 per bid document.
- * For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service \$ 450,000 per bid document.
- * For delivery to Overseas Bidders by courier Service \$ 550,000 for bid document.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon at 11 o'clock, on Jan 14 1997. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days.

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PHILADELPHIA 2

PAMELA ANDERSON...in

BARBED WIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Austria's Josef Strobl skis to a first place finish after the first run of the men's World Cup giant slalom in Park City. Snowfall and fog covered the the course during the start of the race (Reuters photo)

Strobl heads Austrian giant slalom sweep

PARK CITY, Utah (R) — Unheralded Josef Strobl of Austria took advantage of a break in the snow and fog to grab the first-run lead in the World Cup giant slalom Monday and then overtook teammate Hans Knauss for the second 1-2 finish by Austrian skiers in 24 hours at Park City ski area.

Strobl, best known for his downhill and Super-G results with only one World Cup giant slalom top-10 finish, posted a two-run time of 2 minutes, 31.42 seconds. He received \$25,000 for the win, his second World Cup triumph after a downhill victory two years ago at Val d'Isere, France.

"This is wonderful. I've waited two years for this," Strobl said as joyous, flag-waving Austrian fans came into the finish area and lifted him onto their shoulders for a small celebration.

Knauss rocketed out of seventh place after the first run, recording the fastest second run to finish second in 2:32.84.

Defending World Cup giant slalom champion Michael Von Gruenigen grabbed the overall points lead by finishing third in 2:31.90.

Strobl previously had

been with the Austrian downhill group but trained more in giant slalom during the summer in New Zealand and at glacier training camps in Austria. "GS has always been my favourite event," he said.

The race, postponed from Friday because of heavy rain, began in light snow with fog embracing the top of the race course on the final day at Park City ski area.

The first 15 racers in the morning run darted through the snow and fog but Strobl, skiing 20th, had clear conditions and grabbed a lead of .52 seconds over Voo Gruenigen, who had started second.

Light snow fell again at the start of the final run. Knauss, seventh in the first run, unleashed the fastest second run and held the lead until Strobl, the last skier under the reverse-30 format, came down.

The racers shrugged about any problems with the shifting weather. "This is an outside sport. We must ski in the conditions, which were not so bad," Knauss said.

Thomas Sykora and Thomas Stangassinger gave Austria a 1-2 finish in the slalom on Sunday, and the Austrian coaches were celebrating the depth of their team again on Monday.

Major backs England World Cup bid

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major Monday told the Football Association (FA) that he strongly supported any English bid to stage the World Cup in 2006.

FA chief executive Graham Kelly and England coach Glenn Hoddle won the commitment after an hour-long meeting with Major, a keen soccer fan and supporter of London's Chelsea club.

The government is to hold detailed talks with the Football Association over the next two weeks, officials said.

Hoddle told reporters after the meeting: "I am very happy to say that the prime minister has indicated that he is very keen and will strongly support the bid in principle."

The FA is eager to stage the World Cup after the success this summer of the European Championship but its bid could face stiff competition from Germany and African nations.

The year 2006 marks the 40th anniversary of England's last hosting of the world cup, when the home side defeated Germany in the final at London's Wembley Stadium.

National heritage secretary Virginia Bottomley said in June the government would back the FA "all the way" if it decided to offer to host the world tournament, hinting that money could be made available from Britain's national lottery.

"The prime minister and I are determined that we don't have to wait another 30 years before we once again play host to the sporting nations of the world," she said. Bottomley's ministerial responsibilities cover sport.

1st Division Basketball Championship Ahli beat Jazireh in final minute

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Basketball fans watched the first of the season's competitive matches Monday night when Al Ahli came back from an 11 point deficit to beat Al Jazireh 63-60 in one of three scheduled first division matches.

The two other games were not as close although Al Yarmouk put up a big fight before losing 103-87 to Al Jalil. On the other hand, Al Orthodoxy sailed past Al Watani 143-40.

The Ahli-Jazireh match however was the only one which had a flavour of first division basketball with a good number of fans attending.

Al Ahli started the match on an upbeat note determined to prove that the absence of their top stars (Marwan Ma'touq, Yousef Zaghlool and Naser Bushnaq) would not completely alter their competitive form.

They took a 16-9 lead before Marwan Saeedi netted 8 consecutive points to give his team a 26-15 lead with less than six minutes remaining in the first half.

Al Jazireh clearly lacked the effective playmaking efforts of retired playmaker Ghaith Ennabi. While young recruit Mu'tasem Salameh tried his best to substitute for Ennabi, teammates Husam Lutfi and Naser Alawneh combined their efforts and scored most of the next 14 points to take the lead at 29-28.

Al Ahli's Ramez Hamoudeh scored from a turnaround buzzer-beater to give his team the first half 30-29 lead.

Al Jazireh had an explosive start in the second half as Yousef Abu Baker scored five points while the team's undisputed star Husam Lutfi scored 11 consecutive points to give Al Jazireh a 43-35 and 47-44 lead.

Al Ahli's excellent playmaker Faisal Nsour scored and assisted teammates Saeedi and Taimour Shamali but Jazireh's Lutfi and Mu'an Odeh again combined to score and lead 57-46.

As fans thought and 11 point lead would enable Al Jazireh to beat the former champions, Al Ahli capitalised on ineffective rebounding and a couple of Jazireh turnovers to

outscore Al Jazireh 17-3 with Walid Badran and Ramez Hammoudeh scoring crucial points.

The scoreboard showed Al Jazireh leading 60-57 in the final minute but Al Ahli managed to put and end to Al Jazireh's ambitions and sealed the match with a precious win.

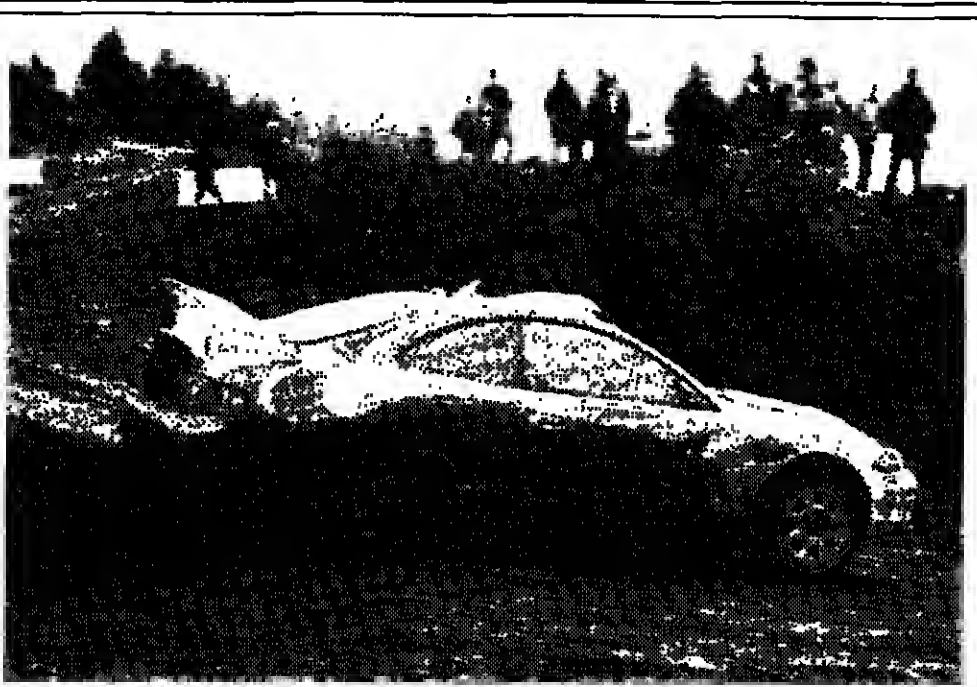
Despite the defeat, Al Jazireh will qualify to the playoffs together with Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxy and Al Jalil.

Following Monday's matches Al Orthodoxy took the lead atop the standings and together with Al Ahli remained the only unbeaten teams.

STANDINGS

| Team | P | W | L | PF | SA | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Orthodoxy | 3 | 3 | - | 353 | 151 | 6 |
| Ahli | 3 | 3 | - | 250 | 142 | 6 |
| Jazireh | 3 | 2 | 1 | 254 | 182 | 5 |
| Jalil | 3 | 1 | 2 | 221 | 230 | 4 |
| Yarmouk | 3 | - | 3 | 178 | 310 | 3 |
| Watani | 3 | - | 3 | 143 | 384 | 3 |

German driver Armin Schwarz slides around a hairpin bend during stage 22 of the RAC Rally at Corris in Wales. Schwarz finished the stage with a lead of 8 minutes, 47 seconds over Japanese driver Masao Kamioka. A record 199 entries will compete in the three-day event (Reuters photo)



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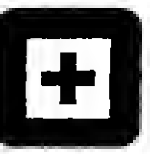
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'Informal' discussions on refugees end with little apparent progress

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An "informal consultative meeting" of the multilateral working group on refugees closed Monday without the issuance of any statement, in an indication that little progress was made in the deliberations.

However, the fact that Arab and Israeli delegates sat at the same table and the meeting went ahead as scheduled, despite the current stall in the Middle East peace process, should be regarded as an achievement in itself, said the chairman of the group Andrew Robinson of Canada.

"The fact that the parties were willing to come to this meeting at this particular juncture of the peace process...demonstrated both their commitment to the multilateral process and the importance they attach to the refugee issue," he said.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Robinson, who is also Canada's coordinator for the Middle East peace process, added that "the fact that this meeting went ahead, when many other aspects of the peace process are moving slowly, underlines the importance all parties attach to the refugee issues."

Praising the "generous and

humanitarian Jordanian policies towards Palestinian refugees," Mr. Robinson said "all participating parties recognised that a solution to the refugee issue is a fundamental and necessary aspect of the peace process."

The Nov. 24-25 meeting, held in Petra, was attended by the four regional parties — Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Israel — and the two co-sponsors of the peace process — Russia and the U.S. — as well as the countries in charge of different issues related to the refugee problem.

In this regard, the so-called "shepherd countries" represented in the meeting were the European Union (economic and social infrastructure), Italy (public health), Norway (data-bases), Sweden (child welfare), and the U.S. (job creation, vocational training and human resources development).

France, which is in charge of family reunification, did not attend.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the head of the Jordanian delegation Marwan Dudin as saying Sunday that France declined to participate in expression of its frustration over the failure of Israel to implement its accords with the Palestinians.

"The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of our achievements, review the work plan and discuss future plans," said Mr. Robinson.

Stressing that "the meeting in Petra was an informal consultative meeting," and, therefore, it was not meant to take "policy decisions or make announcements," he added that, however, "all the parties felt that it was useful to have this meeting at this time."

But, away from the spotlights of an official press conference and the solemn tone of press statements, delegates were more inclined to give less positive accounts of the meeting.

"We are lucky that we could carry on (the meeting)," a Jordanian delegate conceded.

Confirming the already meagre expectations expressed by other delegates in the run-up to the meeting, he admitted that the atmosphere in Petra was "a little hard, though correct and acceptable."

Stressing that this was not a plenary meeting, but just an informal one, the delegate said: "It will take a lot more patience to (reach the stage to) convene a plenary session (of the working group on refugees)."

Regent receives credentials of 5 ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday received at Raghdan Palace the credentials of five newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan in separate ceremonies.

The ambassadors were (clockwise): Abdul Latif Ben Owang of Malaysia, Hmeid Shbeira of Algeria, Alay Alkadi Kisi of Mali, Tijan Polatkhon Kolgatvich of Kazakhstan and Ian Kennedy of New Zealand.

The credential presentation ceremonies were attended by Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, His Majesty King Hussein's advisor for Tribal Affairs Hmeid Al Fayez, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid Madadha and Royal Court Secretary-General Abdullah Siraj.



Column 8

Britons offered two Christmas Day queens

LONDON (R) — Britons are being offered two queens to toast this Christmas — Queen Elizabeth delivering her traditional televised message and a noted mimic taking off the self-styled "queen of hearts," Princess Diana. Queen Elizabeth's speech is considered as traditional as turkey and Christmas pudding in Britain. But Channel Four is offering an alternative that will be broadcast at the same time — comedian Rory Bremner mimicking Princess Diana.

Briton fakes kidnapping to finance beach life

LONDON (R) — The family of British civil servant Peter Chetnik feared the worst when he called repeatedly from Thailand to say he had been kidnapped and persuaded them to send thousands of pounds in ransom money. But when local police were sent in to investigate, they found the 30-year-old living with his girlfriend in a Thai beach resort rather than being imprisoned by kidnappers. Chetnik confessed he made up the ransom threat to get more spending money from his parents because he feared they would not send him the cash if he simply asked for it. "It was all found to be a total fabrication. There has never been any suggestion that he was held against his will," a British Foreign Office spokesman said Tuesday. "The gentleman is in financial difficulties and we are trying to help him out on that score." Chetnik's mother Maria said she had sent thousands of pounds after her son had called up from Thailand, where he was taking a year off to write a book. "He first called five or six months ago, saying he was being held hostage and begging me to get him released," she told the Daily Telegraph newspaper. "Then he telephoned again, always reversing the charges, and we kept sending money — a lot of money. I could detect fear in his voice. I would hear Thai voices and then he would be cut off," she said. But Chetnik's luck ran out when his mother contacted local police who then alerted the Foreign Office.

ATO to renew mandate in Bosnia

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French town fights bird invasion

PARIS (R) — The startling invasion of Perpignan is bigger than ever this year and the southern French city echoes with the sound of firecrackers. Residents carry umbrellas to shield themselves from bird droppings when they pass under city centre plane trees. Some have broken limbs in falls on the slippery streets. City hall spokesman Philippe Labadie said the number of starlings descending on Perpignan for their annual flight south had reached a record two million this year. French law bans hunting starlings and the birds seem little bothered by firecrackers, or by loudspeakers broadcasting the chant of their enemies, the jays.

Thieves help uncover tombs

CERVETERI, Italy (R) — Italian archaeologists have discovered nine perfectly preserved ancient Etruscan tombs with priceless objects from around the Mediterranean, police said on Monday. State archaeologists unearthed the tombs after finance police spotted three people digging near the vast necropolis, or cemetery, outside the town of Cerveteri, near Rome. "The ability of a region to compete globally is increasingly becoming the sort of framework on which a lot of reform priorities are being judged," the ambassador concluded. "The same trend is taking off here."

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Police remove satellite TV dishes in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have begun removing satellite television dishes from homes in the Iranian capital as part of a crackdown on illegal reception of foreign television broadcasts, residents said Tuesday.

"Police came to my house and said either I allow them to take away the antenna or I give them my passport," said a resident of northern Tehran who declined to be identified.

"The policemen arrived with a warrant to search my house," another resident of the capital who also asked for anonymity told AFP.

The Iranian authorities banned satellite dishes in April 1995 following heated debate among the country's leadership and imposed a fine of one million rials (\$330) for violators.

Thousands of Tehran residents continued to use the dishes, however, covering them up with a sheet or a blanket or installing them in gardens or on the roof where they were not visible from the street.

"From now on, we'll put the dish up at night to watch television and take it down during the day," said one resident.

There has been no official announcement of a crackdown on violators of the ban on satellite dishes, but the confiscation campaign coincides with the launching of satellite programming in Farsi by the Voice of America (VoA).

The VoA on Oct. 25 began broadcasting an hour a day of Farsi television programming via satellite. As many as one-third of Iranians living in cities have access to satellite television.

The VoA broadcasts are the first in Farsi to Iran, although some 20 foreign channels are available in a variety of languages, including Arabic and English, the two languages the most widely spoken in the country after Farsi.

Foreign radio stations such as the BBC and VoA also enjoy widespread popularity in Iran, whose leadership denounces Western "cultural aggression" on a near-daily basis.

Taleban continue northward push

KABUL (AP) — Taleban troops continued their march north of Kabul on Tuesday toward a strategic military air base, said government officials and frontline soldiers.

The Taleban religious army recaptured the key village of Kalakan, about 20 kilometres north of the beleaguered capital on the road that leads toward the military airfield at Bagram, still controlled by the anti-Taleban alliance.

"This is very important to us," said a Taleban official. "Our next target will be Bagram."

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but at the frontline, soldiers reported at least three anti-Taleban soldiers died in the attack.

On the frontline the conditions were miserable. Taleban soldiers wrapped in blankets and wearing sandals on their bare feet in zero temperatures fired relentlessly at their enemies just several metres away.

Occasionally a Taleban jet screamed in overhead and bombed enemy positions.

The latest Taleban attack began at dawn on Sunday. Since then the Taleban have

been marching northward pushing former government soldiers out of territory they had taken from the Taleban just one week earlier.

Since overrunning the capital of Kabul in September, Taleban soldiers have been locked in a ferocious battle with an alliance of four different groups, led by northern warlord Rashid Dostum and ousted military chief Ahmad Shah Massoud.

The anti-Taleban alliance has provided the first real resistance to the Taleban religious army since it entered the fray nearly three years ago.

The Taleban swept through two-thirds of the country meeting little resistance. Even Kabul was barely contested.

The former government withdrew its soldiers from Kabul on Sept. 27 after only a half-hearted attempt at resistance.

Since then the United Nations has been trying to broker an agreement between the warring groups that would at least end the fighting and eventually bring about a political solution.

Militants threaten to attack U.S. forces

DUBAI (AP) — An underground group in Saudi Arabia threatened Tuesday to attack U.S. forces in the kingdom unless jailed militants are freed.

The statement by the Movement for Islamic Change was the second since the truck bombing of a U.S. military housing complex in eastern Saudi Arabia last June in which 19 Americans were killed.

The group did not claim that attack, nor one in November 1995 in the city of Riyadh that killed five Americans and two Indians. But its statements have been critical of Western forces in the kingdom, which is the site of Islam's two holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina.

In its statement, the group gave Saudi authorities until the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan to accede to the demands. The month of

fasting ends in mid-February.

The movement "gives an ultimatum for the release of their imprisoned brethren... or else the movement will carry out its operations against certain targets," said the Arabic-language statement faxed to the Associated Press.

"Our response will be in a language understood by the imperialist American fighters and the criminals of Al Saud," the Saudi ruling family, the statement said.

There was no way to verify its authenticity, although it was similar in form to earlier communiques from the group.

The latest statement came two days after Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director Louis Freeh wrapped up a visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss the kingdom's investigation into the June bombing, which

occurred at the Al Khobar Towers housing complex near the city of Dhahran.

Security for the estimated 5,000 U.S. troops in the kingdom has been stepped up since the Dhahran bombing.

Saudi opposition groups, operating underground or from offices in London, have accused the government of detaining hundreds of people for questioning in the bombing case.

Opposition groups and Saudi security forces have said that about 40 Shiite Muslims with links to Iran are among the detainees. Iran has denied any involvement in the attack.

The regime "has gone too far in arresting hundreds of the oppressed people and religious reformers who are still in Al Saud prisons," said the statement received Tuesday.

The group also called for

the release of Salman Al Awdah, a Muslim cleric jailed in September 1994 for his fiery sermons against the presence of Western forces in the kingdom. He was charged with "sowing dissension."

His release has been a key demand of the Movement for Islamic Change and other secretive Islamic groups in Saudi Arabia.

In earlier statements the Movement for Islamic Change also had called on the U.S. forces stationed in Saudi Arabia to leave, but this was not repeated in the most recent communique.

The group sent a similar statement threatening attacks against Americans after the Dhahran bombing. It sent two other threatening statements before the bombing in Riyadh in November. Four Saudis who confessed to that attack were beheaded by authorities.

No U.S.-EU differences over bases for Mideast peace, Egan asserts

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States and its European allies do not have any fundamental differences in terms of objectives of the Middle East peace process and both share common views of what should be the bases of comprehensive peace in the region, according to the U.S. ambassador to the region.

By the same token, said Ambassador Wesley Egan, most European Union (EU) countries have also "changed their mind" and now support the idea of a Middle East Development Bank (MEDB) which was first proposed at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Casablanca in 1994.

Mr. Egan also said that Washington was determined to secure congressional approval for funding for the capital of the bank, which, he added, should be operational in 1997.

The ambassador, who was addressing a Rotary Club gathering in Amman on Tuesday, noted that the U.S.

permanent delegate to the U.N., Madeline Albright, signed the charter of the MEDB bank on Nov. 22 and that Washington was sending its representatives to a transition team of the bank to Cairo this month. The bank is planned to be based in the Egyptian capital.

Others who have signed the charter of the bank include Jordan, Italy and Cyprus. Mr. Egan was answering a question from the audience on perceived differences between the U.S. and European Union countries on approach to the Middle East peace process and economic development of the countries of the region.

The ambassador did not comment on the American rejection of a stronger political profile for the European Union in Arab-Israeli peace-making and the appointment of a special European envoy to the peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last month that Washington did not think a direct EU involvement would help the peace process much and indicated that Washington

would like to have the European bloc remains within its role as the main financier to the parties involved in the peace negotiations.

France has been leading the European effort to enter the peace process with a direct role.

In his comments on Monday, Mr. Egan, without referring to France by name, noted that the Paris government had not only dropped its objections to the proposed MEDB but was also ready to contribute to its capital. Paris was one of the strongest critics of the proposal to create a bank when it was made in Casablanca in 1994.

"Two years ago, when the idea for the bank was launched in Casablanca, there was considerable debate as to whether or not this was a good idea, as to whether or not it could be properly capitalised and what its impact should be," said the ambassador. "One European capital had very strong views that the bank was not a very good idea and in fact proposed an alternative to the bank structure."

"One of the interesting aspects of the Cairo economic conference was that that very government has now decided to join the bank as a full member," he added.

According to the ambassador, countries have now realised that the proposed bank could serve as a pivotal role in Middle East economic development, given the economic reforms under way in the region.

"Over the past two years...people have watched the expanding pace of economic reform in this region, from the Maghreb to this part of the Middle East," he said. "They are now acknowledging that 'a bank of this sort can play an enormously important role in a regional context because after all it will be the only multilateral financial institution that is focused exclusively on the Middle East region.'"

"I think many of our European colleagues, in particular one of the most vociferous opponents of the idea two years ago, have not changed their minds," added the ambassador.

Mr. Egan said Washington,

which is finding it difficult to secure congressional approval for funds as the U.S. contribution to the capital of the proposed bank, "is going to work very hard to make sure that we are fully paid-up members."

"I expect that the bank would be a reality in the course of 1997," he added.

Ambassador Egan rejected the assertion that the U.S. and its European allies differed over the objectives of the peace process in the region. "I don't think there is any difference between the U.S. and our European allies whatsoever" in terms of the objectives of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, he said.

"We are all interested in the success of the achievement of comprehensive peace and we have the same idea about what the foundations of that peace need to be," added the ambassador.

"We all have the same views on the objectives with respect to economic development. We all understand that the people of the region have to feel the impact of the peace in a tangible way, whether it is in a bilateral

Jordanian-Israeli context or a broader regional context."

Mr. Egan stressed that no country in any region of the world could continue to follow economic policies in isolation from the emerging world trend for "regionalisation" and that this was one of the focuses of the MENA conference in Cairo.

"I was particularly struck by the emphasis in Cairo on the focus on regionalism as a key ingredient for playing the game successfully at the global level," he said. "It is very much a trend in the world economy. You see it in NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association) in the Western Hemisphere, you see it in the European Union, you see it in the Pacific Rim countries."

"The ability of a region to compete globally is increasingly becoming the sort of framework on which a lot of reform priorities are being judged," the ambassador concluded. "The same trend is taking off here."

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